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SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION AND TO YOUTH, AGEING, DISABLED PERSONS AND THE FAMILY

Policies and programmes involving youth

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 45/103 of 14 December 1990, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General to prepare a draft world youth programme of action towards the year 2000 and beyond in accordance with proposals to be submitted by Member States, the United Nations and non-governmental youth organizations and in consultation with the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and the relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and to report thereon to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session.

2. In a related action, the Economic and Social Council, in paragraph 1 of its resolution 1991/11 of 30 May 1991, decided to establish an open-ended ad hoc working group of the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-third session, with a view to (a) reviewing and appraising progress achieved and obstacles identified in implementing the objectives of the International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace; (b) drafting a calendar of activities to mark the tenth anniversary of International Youth Year; and (c) preparing a draft world youth programme of action towards the year 2000 and beyond, taking into account the regional youth programmes of action. The Secretary-General was requested to submit to the Commission at its thirty-third session, for discussion by the open-ended ad hoc working group, the draft calendar of activities and the draft world youth programme of action towards the year 2000 and beyond.

3. In view of the procedure involved in preparing a draft world youth programme of action, the present report, submitted in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 45/103, aims at providing (a) a summary of the proposals of Member States and United Nations specialized agencies and bodies; (b) a framework for preparing a world programme; and (c) recommendations thereon. It is a preliminary phase which involves further action by the Secretariat, in 1992; the Commission for Social Development and the Economic and Social Council, in 1993; and the General Assembly in 1995. The final phase should be review and endorsement of the world youth programme of action by the General Assembly in 1995.

II. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4. Many significant initiatives, programmes and activities have been undertaken in the context of the International Youth Year and its follow-up (see A/45/422). Stronger efforts, however, are required to achieve the objectives of the Year. There is a need to review the guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth in the light of newly emerging youth issues and the changing international climate, which have opened up new vistas in youth policy development. The tenth anniversary of the Year, in 1995, presents a suitable opportunity to elaborate the guidelines into a sound world youth programme of action.

5. Effective monitoring and evaluating of international instruments, such as the Guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth (A/40/256, annex) requires a series of specific actions at the global level, which include the setting up of an appropriate data bank and a structured flow of substantive and technical information. If complemented by a well-developed technical assistance programme to assist Governments in building the appropriate capacities, a concrete basis for a world youth programme of action can be established.

6. These tasks can be undertaken effectively if resources are supplemented. This, therefore, is the prerequisite for the following recommendations, which should be considered in the context of the strategy and time-frame presented in Section IV:

(a) A conceptual framework for a world youth programme of action should be elaborated by an international team representing the best expertise available;

(b) Regional expert meetings should then develop regional programmes of action within the above-mentioned conceptual framework;

(c) On the basis of the international and regional inputs, Member States are invited to consider preparing national youth programmes of action.

All of the above elements will be incorporated into the world youth programme of action, to be submitted to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session in 1995.

III. PROPOSALS FOR THE PREPARATION OF A DRAFT WORLD YOUTH PROGRAMME OF ACTION TOWARDS THE YEAR 2000 AND BEYOND

7. Notes verbales and aides-mémoires were sent to Member States, concerned United Nations specialized agencies and bodies and non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations, requesting proposals on the draft world youth programme of action. As at 15 June 1991, 12 Member States, 16 bodies and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, and 11 non-governmental youth organizations replied. The collective views of specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system and non-governmental youth organizations were expressed at the eighth meeting of the Informal Inter-agency Working Group at the Technical Level on Youth, held at Vienna on 30 and 31 May 1991, and the Youth Forum of the United Nations system held at Vienna from 27 to 29 May 1991 respectively.

A. Member States

8. The statements made to the General Assembly, at its forty-fifth session, and to the Commission for Social Development, at its thirty-second session, as well as the responses received by the Secretariat, indicated that several

Member States stressed the importance of the draft world youth programme of action. They emphasized the need to review and appraise the progress achieved and the obstacles encountered in the implementation of the guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth. Based on that evaluation, they called for the preparation of a draft world youth programme of action towards the year 2000 and beyond, with a target orientation and within a specific time-frame. The importance of preparing both national and regional youth programmes of action was also recognized.

9. The priority issues identified by Member States included: health, malnutrition, acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), drug abuse, juvenile delinquency, illiteracy, education and training, employment, housing, environment, culture, leisure-time activities, integration of young women into society, and the role of public and private organizations in youth development programmes.

10. One Member State proposed the convening of a world youth congress under the aegis of the United Nations to address youth questions and the declaration of a United Nations decade for youth. It also suggested that each country should include a youth representative in the meetings of intergovernmental bodies.

B. United Nations system

11. Several United Nations specialized agencies and bodies emphasized the importance of the draft world youth programme of action, and the need for it to be short, simple and primarily focused at the national level. The guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth provided a useful conceptual framework for developing the draft world youth programme of action towards the year 2000 and beyond. The guidelines, however, could only be described as statements of intention. Every effort should be made to translate them into practical action targeted at the national level, at specific population groups and, whenever possible, within a time-frame.

12. Concerning priority issues proposed by specific organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, the following were cited for inclusion in the draft world youth programme of action.

Advancement of young women

13. The Division for the Advancement of Women of the United Nations Office at Vienna/Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs emphasized the relevance of the following issues to the draft world youth programme of action in the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women: 1/

(a) Education: In many countries, female education is still at a lower level than male education, with the gender gap in education widest in the poorest countries. Girls and young women need special incentives to be enrolled in formal schooling and to be prevented from dropping out;

(b) Development: Young women are agents of development and their role is crucial;

(c) Health care: Young women play an important role in health care.

14. The Division underlined the need for affirmative action and temporary special measures as stipulated in article 4 to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women in General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex.

Regional commissions

15. The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific noted the following priority issues: basic education, especially in rural areas; literacy, particularly among girls and young women in rural areas; practical training for rural youth, instead of their repeating the formal academic schooling as commonly found in urban areas; unemployment, in rural areas affected by problems of land scarcity and surplus labour, lack of skills, technological innovation and agricultural credit in urban areas, and the spread of capital-intensive technology, including automation; need for an explicit national youth policy with the participation of youth leaders and youth workers in policy and programme formulation; rising trend of crime related to drug abuse and violence among young people indicating the need for more information on the prevention and rehabilitation of juvenile delinquency; and participation of young women in both educational and employment programmes, especially in rural areas.

16. The United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean cited the following priority issues: measures to deal with social and economic barriers to equal opportunities for all youth; measures towards achieving full primary and secondary education; and school drop-outs, particularly those associated with the debt crisis and structural adjustment in developing countries. Attention should be given to rural youth, as well as to housing loans specifically designated for young couples in order to ease overcrowding in parental homes.

17. The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa recommended the following priority issues: unemployment; health; housing; coordination of development efforts; social services; family planning; environment and special groups of youth. Particular mention was made of unemployment problems confronting young people in Africa; AIDS; alcohol and drug abuse; accelerated and uncontrolled urbanization and the lack of adequate housing.

Youth and human rights

18. The United Nations Centre for Human Rights emphasized the necessity to ensure full enjoyment by youth of the rights stipulated in all relevant international instruments. It also referred to Commission on Human Rights resolution 1991/64 on the role of youth in the protection and promotion of human rights.

Youth and environment

19. The United Nations Environment Programme cited the following priority issues: environment and health; protection of freshwater resources; genetic diversity; oceans and coastal areas; wildlife; forests; soils; chemicals; atmospheric (depletion of the ozone layer) and climatic change; atmospheric pollution; coordination, linkage, networking; exchange programmes, development and voluntary service; information and media; and population and family planning.

Youth and drug abuse control

20. The United Nations International Drug Control Programme indicated that non-governmental youth organizations could play an important role in the world-wide fight against drugs and in strengthening cooperation between the United Nations system and youth organizations. The following priority issues were cited: culture/education; development/voluntary service; health/drug abuse; and human rights/law.

Youth-in-service to children

21. The United Nations Children's Fund emphasized the need for developing youth-in-service programmes. Young people can be active promoters of low-cost strategies to improve the living conditions of children, to protect their health and well-being and contribute as partners in development programmes. Of special importance in that regard is the role of international and national youth organizations to advocate and implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child, annexed to General Assembly resolution 44/25 of 20 November 1989.

Youth and development

22. The United Nations Volunteers noted that one principal constraint experienced by youth world wide is a tendency towards "marginalization". Two aspects of that problem were identified: lack of channels of communication between youth and country-level institutions (public and private) and intercountry and international organizations; and lack of meaningful support to existing or potential youth programmes dealing with AIDS, drugs, literacy and education, access to employment opportunities, and the environment. Community-based projects on the above-mentioned issues should be emphasized and non-governmental youth organizations should be asked to identify what activities, organizations or arrangements have already been initiated in those areas and what could give a decisive impetus, including at the international level, to ensure their optimal development and success. Facilitating exchanges of experiences and know-how among the non-governmental youth organizations themselves could be helpful.

Youth and population

23. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) cited the following priority issues: improving education and training for girls and young women beyond

basic literacy; advocating delay of marriage and childbirth; promoting family-life education and responsible parenthood; facilitating access of young people to family planning information and services; conducting research in the sociocultural aspects of adolescent sexuality and fertility; increased education on AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases for young people; educating young men about the need for males to share in family responsibilities, including family planning; educating boys about the equality of the sexes; empowering young people to make informed decisions and choices concerning all aspects of their life; and increasing collaboration between youth and youth related non-governmental organizations within the United Nations system.

Refugee youth

24. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) both recommended the inclusion of refugee youth as a priority issue in the draft world youth programme of action. For UNRWA, the issue has not only involved the provision of services to refugee youth, but cooperation with youth organizations for various activities. UNHCR stressed the rights of refugee youth to their original religion and culture and to develop further their own language in the country of residence. UNHCR especially cited the educational and health needs of refugee youth and the role of non-governmental youth organizations in improving the situation of young refugees.

Specialized agencies

Youth and employment/vocational training

25. The International Labour Organisation cited the following priority issues: employment promotion for and vocational training of young people belonging to disadvantaged groups, such as the landless rural population, those engaged in the informal sector, in both urban and rural areas, young female heads of households, and disabled youth; and special employment and training programmes, particularly for disadvantaged categories of youth. Special measures for the education, training and employment of youth can only be effective if undertaken in the context of overall policies for growth and employment. Such special measures can be a useful complement to, but cannot be a substitute for, sound economic and employment policies. Other priority issues mentioned were environment, drug abuse, and human rights, particularly workers' rights.

Rural youth and young farmers

26. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations cited two global issues: the increasing numbers of youth, the lack of educational and employment opportunities open to rural young men and women. With high drop-out rates, rural youth, particularly young farmers, are at a distinct disadvantage when compared to their urban counterparts. Other priority issues mentioned were:

coordination/linkages; culture/education; development/voluntary services; employment/trades; environment/housing; food/agriculture; information/media; population/family planning; and special groups of youth.

Youth and education, science and culture

27. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization mentioned the following priority issues: human resources development through basic education and literacy; environmental issues; and human rights. Emphasis should be placed on literacy education, restoration of cultural heritage, youth-exchange programmes and concrete action to solve the problems encountered by young people.

Youth and health

28. The World Health Organization indicated that several issues should be considered in the preparation of the world youth programme of action: review of the impact of the International Youth Year, with specific reference to advocating attention to meeting the health needs of adolescents and youth. The designation of a world health day was suggested in order to focus attention on the situation of youth. Although advocacy at the international level was important, activities that were likely to have the greatest impact on the strengthening of youth policies and programmes nationally should be emphasized. It was suggested that the components of a draft world youth programme that support the healthy development of young people should refer to action needed in various sectors thereby requiring considerable attention to be given to coordination and collaboration. The complexity and difficulty of obtaining resources and implementing comprehensive programmes in various countries needed to be recognized.

C. Views and proposals of young people

29. Non-governmental youth organizations have an important and constructive role to play in furthering the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and in contributing to and supporting the work of the Organization. Youth and youth-related non-governmental organizations have made a valuable contribution to the work of the United Nations by drawing attention to youth issues, suggesting ideas and programmes to improve the situation of youth, and disseminating information to promote an informed understanding about the aims and activities of the Organization. Various non-governmental organizations at all levels have provided their views, collectively and individually, on the elaboration of a world youth programme of action.

1. Youth Forum of the United Nations system (Vienna, 27-29 May 1991)

30. Numerous non-governmental organizations at the Youth Forum of the United Nations system stressed the importance of youth involvement in formulating,

implementing and evaluating the world youth programme of action. They noted that it should be action-oriented, contain practical objectives congruent with the current youth situation. They emphasized the continued relevance of the themes of the International Youth Year. The importance of youth participation at all levels and the need to strengthen existing youth organizations were stressed. Increased understanding and cooperation between youth organizations and young people as well as the promotion of better access of young people, in particular young women, to decision-making processes were recommended.

31. Non-governmental organizations underlined the importance of the following priority issues: global cooperation on youth-related questions; the need for access to information and new technologies; youth involvement in global environment issues; the need for adequate health, family planning, housing and employment; measures to address urban migration, illiteracy, AIDS, drug addiction, vagrancy, famine and the social problems associated with disability; promoting educational and training opportunities at all levels; maximizing the potential of young people in the workplace and taking measures to alleviate unemployment; promoting equal opportunities, particularly for young women and their full participation in society; improving the situation and integration of migrants, disabled persons, rural youth, refugees, indigenous young people, and other minorities; promoting the right to self-determination; measures to eradicate violence, racial discrimination and xenophobia among youth; and promoting the participation of young people in upholding and implementing the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

32. Non-governmental organizations suggested several specific actions: (a) adopting a declaration of youth principles and a convention on youth; (b) convening, in 1995, a world youth summit to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the International Youth Year; (c) declaring a United Nations decade for youth; and (d) organizing a United Nations world youth rock concert, United Nations world youth orchestra and world youth choir to raise funds and promote the world youth programme of action.

2. Non-governmental youth organizations

33. Several national, regional and international non-governmental organizations submitted specific proposals for inclusion in the draft world youth programme of action.

34. The All-China Youth Federation noted that the programme should be action-oriented, with practical objectives and actions in line with the current situation and with the aim to solve the practical problems facing world youth. It indicated that the programme should appeal to all Governments for the formulation of an integrated national youth policy, the protection of the legal rights of youth by way of legislation and the establishment of coordinating bodies for youth work on the national level.

35. The American Youth Work Centre cited the following priority issues: coordination/linkages; development/voluntary service; health/drug abuse; human

rights/law; population/family planning; social services/welfare and staff exchanges.

36. Canada World Youth Jeunesse Canada Monde proposed the creation of a United Nations youth exchange programme. The networking was proposed to be national, regional and international in nature, with North-South, North-North and South-South dimensions. This programme should be set up under the aegis of the United Nations and operational by 1994 so as to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the International Youth Year and the fiftieth anniversary of the Charter of the United Nations in 1995.

37. The Indian Assembly of Youth proposed that the United Nations system should promote youth participation in educational reform as well as promote cultural heritage projects. Such proposals and follow-up projects should be undertaken by non-governmental youth organizations in cooperation with the United Nations system in developing countries. The Assembly also emphasized the need for entrepreneurial development programmes to be designed by youth organizations to provide opportunities for self-employment and suggested that the programmes should be supported by the United Nations system.

38. The Kenya Youth Association Council proposed that coordination should be strengthened between youth officers, youth leaders, youth groups and concerned non-governmental organizations and the governmental youth ministry or coordinating machinery at the national level. Youth programmes in schools and out-of-school activities should be strengthened. The Council also identified issues such as the environment, housing, drug abuse, family planning, and freedom of association.

39. The European Trade Union Confederation underlined the following priority issues for the collaboration of non-governmental organizations with the United Nations system: protection of children and youth from abuse at the workplace; ratification, implementation and verification of ILO Convention 138; education and vocational training; youth employment and unemployment; drugs; and the strengthening of cross-border, intercultural education and joint activities involving youth organizations.

40. The Committee on Youth of the non-governmental organizations at United Nations Headquarters called for a programme which would facilitate an understanding among youth of the pluralistic nature of world society and encourage the implementation of the principle that all youth be raised in an atmosphere free from intolerance of national ethnic, racial, religious and cultural differences.

41. During the International Youth Year (1985), the World Youth Orchestra of the International Federation of Musical Youth undertook a special tour dedicated to the themes of the Year. The idea now proposed was to schedule special performances of the World Youth Orchestra in 1995 to coincide with a youth conference or special event at the United Nations commemorating the tenth anniversary of the Year and the fiftieth anniversary of the Charter of the United Nations. It was suggested to rename that Orchestra the United

Nations World Youth Orchestra, which would undertake a special world tour to promote the draft action programme. Since the Federation also sponsors a World Youth Choir and World Youth Folk Festival, it was proposed to affiliate them with the United Nations as part of the tenth anniversary celebration.

42. The International Union of Students stated that national unions of students around the world should be viewed as important partners of the United Nations system, as channels of communication with students at both third and secondary levels of education as vehicles to plan, implement and evaluate projects with the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system.

43. The World Federation of Trade Unions stressed that the situation of young workers remained precarious since they were subjected to various forms of discrimination in respect of employment, wages and working conditions and formed a large proportion of the unemployed, even in industrially advanced countries.

IV. APPROACHES TO A DRAFT WORLD YOUTH PROGRAMME OF ACTION

A. Orientation

44. On the basis of proposals mentioned in section III, above, the following general orientation and preparatory process are suggested.

45. The three basic themes of the International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace should continue to be the overall themes of the world youth programme of action to ensure the effective integration of young people in the development process. The predominant concerns of those themes are essentially: distributive justice, popular participation, and quality of life. Attention should be given to the elaboration of those concepts in the operational strategies of the world youth programme of action for the year 2000 and beyond. The principle objective of the programme is to provide a practical and effective guide, in a global framework, for national and regional action on a long-term basis, bearing in mind the broad goals and objectives of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Decade.

46. Measures will be designed to enhance the capacity and capabilities of young people to become active participants in development. The focus will be on identifying and elaborating emerging issues of direct concern to young people, and to provide practical guidelines for national, regional and international actions as part of a sustained long-term effort to improve the quality of life, particularly of young women.

47. The world youth programme of action will acknowledge existing problems, social, economic and political, and will include suggested actions at all levels. Particular attention will be given to disadvantaged and underprivileged youth: youth in rural and urban sectors and in shanty towns, disabled youth, young refugees, migrant workers, and other topics that may be identified as priorities during the preparatory process.

48. The role of non-governmental youth organizations in the decision-making process and the importance of the various coordinating mechanisms in developing and implementing national youth policies and programmes will be emphasized.

49. Setting of global targets will be the key element in the preparation of the world youth programme of action. In this exercise, due consideration will be given to the regional targets. Concerted efforts will be made for cooperative actions from Member States, United Nations organizations and bodies, selected non-governmental organizations and, also, a selected number of institutes dealing with youth issues. Targets will be issue-oriented and will include basic strategies and measures for implementation at the national, regional and global levels.

B. Strategy

50. The strategy for the world youth programme of action will be divided into three phases: the first phase is the intensive preparation of the programme of action by 1995 and the adoption of the programme by the General Assembly at its fiftieth session in 1995; the second phase is the world-wide implementation of the programme; the third phase, to be carried out from the year 2000 to 2005, will consist of evaluation of progress made and problems encountered leading to a reassessment of long-term objectives.

51. In this process, Governments will be invited to:

(a) Assess the situation and needs of young people in the light of changing circumstances and priorities (1992);

(b) Compile a statistical profile of youth and identify specific policy and substantive issues (1992-1993);

(c) Review and appraise progress achieved and obstacles encountered in the implementation of objectives of the International Youth Year and elaborate a national youth programme (1994).

52. Non-governmental youth and youth-related organizations will be invited to:

(a) Review their youth programmes and select priority themes for actions;

(b) Support Governments in planning and implementation of national youth programmes and in selecting and reaching national targets on youth issues by the year 2000;

(c) Undertake research and studies;

(d) Organize meetings and seminars on emerging youth issues.

53. Regional commissions and other regional organizations will be encouraged to undertake in 1992 a comprehensive review of progress achieved and obstacles

encountered since 1985 in their respective regions with a view to drafting regional programmes of action in 1993.

54. The Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Office at Vienna, as the focal point for youth matters within the United Nations system, is in the process of coordinating activities to mark the tenth anniversary of the International Youth Year. This entails (a) preparing a review and appraisal of progress achieved and obstacles identified in implementing objectives of the Year; (b) drafting a calendar of activities to mark the tenth anniversary of the Year; and (c) preparing a conceptual framework for the world youth programme of action towards the year 2000 and beyond. An analytical study is under way on the global situation of youth in the contemporary world: trends and prospects. Also, specific measures will be taken to encourage national coordinating mechanisms on youth to launch national events to increase awareness; utilize the expertise of the United Nations system, through the inter-agency mechanism on youth, for initiating relevant programmes and activities; and cooperate with the non-governmental organizations in substantive, promotional and informational activities geared to the tenth anniversary.

C. Timetable

55. Based on decisions already taken by the General Assembly, the Commission for Social Development and the Economic and Social Council, a provisional timetable is set out below:

(a) Preparatory work, such as formulating a conceptual framework for the world youth programme of action, will be completed by December 1992;

(b) This framework will be transmitted to Member States, United Nations agencies and bodies and non-governmental organizations for further comments or suggestions for refinements throughout 1993, and to United Nations regional commissions for elaborating regional programmes of action;

(c) 1994 will be devoted to the drafting and refinement of the draft world youth programme of action, in light of national experiences, for submission to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session in 1995.

Notes

1/ Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, Kenya, 15-26 July 1985, United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10, chap. I, sect. A.

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SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION AND TO YOUTH, AGEING, DISABLED PERSONS AND THE FAMILY

International cooperation on ageing for 1992 and beyond

Report of the Secretary-General

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* A/46/150.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report is submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolution 45/106 of 14 December 1990 in which, inter alia, the Assembly endorsed an action programme on ageing for 1992 and beyond, designated 1 October as International Day for the Elderly, and requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its forty-sixth session on the implementation of the resolution.

2. In its resolution 43/93, the Assembly decided to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the World Assembly on Aging in the plenary General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, in 1992.

3. The Commission for Social Development, at its thirty-second session, requested the Economic and Social Council to transmit its draft resolution VI to the General Assembly for adoption at its forty-sixth session (E/1991/26-E/CN.5/1991/9). In the resolution the Assembly would recommend several measures pertaining to the action programme on ageing for 1992 and beyond.

4. The present report is an interim one, outlining progress, plans and information relevant to the above-mentioned resolutions.

II. SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5. The plans and activities outlined in the present report evince a remarkable increase in the international community's response to the ageing of populations. The impulse for this response lies in the year 1992, the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the International Plan of Action on Ageing. 1/. It also lies in the rapidity with which populations are ageing. The "age of ageing", the "grey revolution", "humanity's coming of age": these and similar phrases are now part of common discourse and have no uncertain statistical basis. In the 75 years from 1950 to 2025, the world's elderly population (persons 60 years of age and over) will have increased from 200 million to 1.2 billion, or from 8 to 14 per cent of the total global population. Among the elderly, the "old" old (those who are 80 years of age and over) will have grown from 13 million in 1950 to 137 million in 2025. The total world population will have grown by a factor of little more than three, the elderly will have grown by a factor of six and the "old" old by a factor of ten.

6. First to age, the developed countries are adjusting and refining policies and programmes especially for the very old. The developing countries, projected to age more quickly in the coming decades than developed countries have aged in the past, are gradually introducing ageing policies and programmes. The ageing of populations in developing countries is rendered particularly serious by two factors: the absence of an institutional infrastructure to accommodate the increasing numbers and proportions of the elderly, and the uncertainty that the family will be able to continue providing care and solidarity for its elderly members as in the past.

7. When the General Assembly endorsed the International Plan of Action on Ageing in its resolution 37/51 of 3 December 1982, it established a broad and ideal framework for national and international policies and programmes on ageing. The implementation rate of the Plan has been poor, however (see report of the Secretary-General on the second review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Ageing conducted by the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-first session, E/1989/13). The Assembly therefore endorsed an action programme on ageing for 1992 and beyond (resolution A/45/106). The action programme has two themes: the development of a practical strategy to improve implementation of the Plan in the decade 1992 to 2001, and a promotional campaign to mark in 1992 the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Plan. Preparations for the anniversary year have begun. Consultations on developing a practical strategy for the decade are underway and point in several possible directions, including towards a short list of global targets (see annex). Consultations will continue in the coming months on developing draft global targets for submission to the Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

8. While, at its forty-seventh session, the Assembly will consider for adoption a set of draft global targets on ageing, it has for possible endorsement at its current session a draft set of United Nations Principles for Older Persons annexed to draft resolution VI of the Commission for Social Development (E/1991/26-E/CN.5/1991/9). The Principles and the global targets would supplement the Plan of Action, supporting its implementation in distinctive ways from 1992 to 2001. The three instruments would complement and reinforce each other.

9. The United Nations action programme is currently focused on three events: the decade 1992 to 2001, the anniversary year of 1992, and the International Day for the Elderly of 1 October.

10. With the expansion of the United Nations system-wide activities on ageing, the Commission for Social Development recommended in its resolution VI, now before the Assembly for adoption, that the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna be designated Coordinator for the implementation of the action programme on ageing for 1992 and beyond.

11. Parallel to these activities, there has been a significant increase in development cooperation, including in the areas of resource mobilization, institutional development, training, research, publications and technical cooperation.

12. In preparation for the third quadrennial review and appraisal of the implementation of the Plan of Action, a short inquiry will be made of Member States in the spring of 1992. The Commission for Social Development at its thirty-third session in 1993 will conduct the third review and transmit its findings through the Economic and Social Council to the forty-eighth session of the Assembly. It is proposed that the Commission be immediately followed by the fifth ad hoc inter-agency meeting on ageing.

13. Thus, the General Assembly may wish to:

(a) Endorse draft resolution VI of the Commission for Social Development, thirty-second session (E/1991/26-E/CN.5/1991/9);

(b) Recommend that Member States be represented at an appropriately high level in the plenary of the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session in order to reflect strong support for the adoption of a set of targets on ageing for the year 2001 and to celebrate on an appropriate global scale the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the International Plan of Action on Ageing;

(c) Invite Member States to mark the anniversary year and the International Day for the Elderly, inter alia, by inviting national and local leaders to issue statements and by encouraging the preparation of programmes and projects on ageing with the participation of the elderly, schools, the business sector and the media;

(d) Endorse efforts being made to develop an operational strategy for the decade 1992 to 2001;

(e) Elaborate the preliminary draft global targets annexed to the present report as a basis for further consultations;

(f) Encourage wide participation in the third review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Ageing;

(g) Call for extrabudgetary resources to strengthen the United Nations programme on ageing, supporting and supplementing the activities of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Office at Vienna as lead agency for the action programme on ageing for 1992 and beyond and as the focal point of development cooperation on ageing.

III. DEVELOPING AN OPERATIONAL STRATEGY FOR 1992 TO 2001

14. The need for a feasible and operational global strategy on ageing for the 1990s was proposed at the third ad hoc inter-agency meeting on ageing in 1989 and subsequently given priority by the Assembly at its forty-fifth session (resolution 45/106) and by the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-second session (E/1991/26-E/CN.5/1991/9). Following on these, the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Office at Vienna is eliciting the views and support of Member States, non-governmental organizations, individual experts and practitioners in developing the operational strategy. Several studies and meetings are planned for 1991 and 1992, and will focus on developing the strategy, whose core element lies in identifying targets on ageing and the means of reaching them by the year 2001.

15. Initial consultations have identified a preliminary list of 10 global targets (see annex). The preliminary targets were developed mainly on the

basis of consultations held at the ad hoc working group of the thirty-second session of the Commission for Social Development and the fourth ad hoc inter-agency meeting on ageing, held at Vienna earlier this year. The inter-agency meeting reviewed the targets and goals set by other United Nations agencies and bodies and concluded that two basic approaches were possible for ageing, a technical and a promotional one. The technical approach, such as that taken by the European regional office of the World Health Organization for achieving its goal of Health for All by the Year 2000, would require several years and considerable financial resources to develop. It would yield precise indicators to quantify and record a changing situation within a time-frame. Such an approach would be suitable and feasible at the national level for Member States that have identified ageing as a priority. The promotional approach, in contrast, would aim principally at generating broad political support. Promotional targets would be suitable for generating activities in developing countries where, for the time being, priority must be given to establishing and strengthening the basic infrastructure, policies and programmes. Promotional targets would also be more manageable at the global level than technical targets, at least for the next decade. They could be developed more quickly than technical targets, and could be expected to promote broad cooperation between sectors as well as among and between developing and developed countries. The targets annexed to the present report might in time, and as experience is gained, form the basis of a set of more technical targets.

16. To facilitate consultations in 1991 and 1992 on target-setting, the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs will issue two publications with an operational and practical focus: in 1991, the second edition of the World Ageing Situation and in 1992, the publication "Ageing: Programme recommendations at the national level for the year 2001". Both publications give special attention to the needs of developing and least developed countries.

17. The major and concluding consultation on target-setting is expected to be an interregional symposium of eminent persons tentatively planned to take place from 7 to 11 April 1992 at Yokohama, Japan, in cooperation with Japanese authorities, and the Japan Well-Aging Association. Japan, a country with a rapidly ageing population, is giving priority attention to measures for a society-wide adjustment to its demographic change and would serve as a suitable location for the final consultation on developing draft global targets before their submission to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session. The proposed symposium of eminent persons would focus on two tasks: first, on critically examining and finalizing the draft global targets for subsequent submission to the Assembly at its forty-seventh session and, secondly, on identifying innovations and model programmes and projects for reaching selected targets that would be published in 1992.

18. Prior to and following on the proposed interregional symposium, the following meetings, to be held in cooperation with the United Nations, will also examine target-setting and related innovations and model programmes and projects: "Societies in change and transition: meeting the needs of elderly

people" at Vienna in July 1991, organized by HelpAge International; "Integration of ageing and elderly women into development" at Bratislava, Czechoslovakia in October 1991, organized by the American Association of Retired Persons; "The European senior citizen of the 1990s" in the autumn of 1991, organized by the Commission of the European Communities; "Home care policies, with special reference to the elderly: repercussions on social security schemes" at Paris in November 1991, organized by the International Social Security Association; "The quality of life of the elderly in a united Europe" at Bratislava in April 1992, organized by the European Federation for the Welfare of the Elderly and the European Exchange Centre on Gerontology; "Changing status and emerging roles of the elderly in the twenty-first century" at Pune near Bombay, India, in August 1992, organized by the International Federation on Ageing in cooperation with the Government of India; "Population Ageing" at San Diego, California, in September 1992, organized by San Diego State University; "Celebrating the International Day for the Elderly and the tenth anniversary of World Assembly on Ageing" at Barcelona, Spain, in October 1992, organized by the International Federation of Organizations of the Elderly.

19. The non-governmental committees on ageing in New York and Vienna, representing over 60 international organizations of considerable diversity and expertise, are contributing to the evolution of the global strategy. So, too, are entities with special expertise, such as the International Social Security Association in the area of social security or the International Institute on Ageing in Malta, in the area of training.

20. Target-setting, together with the identification of related innovations and model programmes, the focus of attention during 1991 and 1992, is intended to serve as a catalyst for new thinking, better planning, courageous programming, effective cooperation, resourceful fund-raising, and practical training programmes in the 1990s. Once the selected targets will have been endorsed by the Assembly in 1992, the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs will focus attention on developing cooperative strategies, including between the formal and informal sectors to support implementation of such targets, in accordance with each country's cultural and socio-economic conditions. It will use major global events to promote and publicize the targets and to mobilize cooperative action around them. Two major events will take place in 1993: the XV International Conference on Gerontology, Budapest, organized by the International Association of Gerontology and the European Year for the Elderly and Solidarity between the Generations, organized by the European Community. Two notable events in 1994 include the International Year of the Family, coordinated by the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs and the International Conference on Population and Development organized by the Population Division of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs. In 1995, two notable events are the tenth anniversary of the International Youth Year and an international conference on women, both organized by the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs. In 1997, the XVI International Conference on Gerontology will be held at Adelaide, Australia.

21. Well-defined targets would help not only to implement the Plan, but also to measure its implementation. Thus a few key indicators will be identified for each target and incorporated in the inquiry for the third quadrennial review of the implementation of the Plan to be sent to Member States in the spring of 1992. The third inquiry will be shorter than the first and second inquiries held in 1984 and 1988 in which 77 and 58 Member States participated, respectively. It is hoped that a shorter inquiry will facilitate universal participation. The Commission for Social Development will conduct the third review and appraisal at its thirty-third session, in 1993.

22. The fifth ad hoc inter-agency meeting on ageing, immediately following the Commission in 1993, will consider, inter alia, implications for the United Nations system of the third review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Ageing, and system-wide programmes of cooperation for reaching selected targets on ageing by the year 2001. There is widespread interest in convening a two-day meeting after the inter-agency meeting for developing collaborative strategies between the United Nations system and major non-governmental organizations aimed at integrating ageing into mainstream development and into the major events planned for the 1990s.

IV. PROMOTING THE ANNIVERSARY YEAR AND THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELDERLY

23. This year, for the first time, 1 October will be celebrated as the International Day for the Elderly at United Nations offices around the world as well as by Member States and non-governmental organizations. Activities for 1 October 1991 will act as a prelude for 1992, the tenth anniversary of the World Assembly on Ageing. A compendium of the many activities and events is being planned as a means of promoting both occasions.

24. To mark the Day at United Nations Headquarters, the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, in collaboration with the non-governmental committee on ageing in New York, plans an extended discussion and briefing entitled "Humanity comes of age". The programme will focus on challenges facing the United Nations programme on ageing, Governments and non-governmental organizations in implementing the Plan of Action in the decade ahead. Three themes will be explored: the elderly as a resource, the elderly in developing countries, and inter-generational cooperation. A brief review of cooperation between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations on ageing since 1982 will be made. Tentative plans for celebrating 1 October 1992 include a two-day event featuring retired classical musicians; an art exhibition illustrating ageing through painting, sculpture and other means; presentation of inter-generational programmes and projects; illustration of the elderly as leaders in society; and poster and book displays. The Department will organize a Seniors' Week at United Nations Headquarters in both 1991 and 1992.

25. Planned observation of the International Day for the Elderly at the United Nations Office at Vienna includes a forum involving speakers from the Austrian Government and the local non-governmental committee on ageing. Film and slide shows, as well as a photographic and poster exhibit are planned. The event will be given radio and press coverage. The newly established Czechoslovak-based European Exchange Centre on Gerontology prepared a special poster for the event. The regional commissions of the United Nations are exploring the feasibility of collecting photographs of the elderly in their regions for promoting the Day in the years ahead. The Department of Public Information of the Secretariat is planning to mark the Day at selected United Nations information centres around the world.

26. Member States and non-governmental organizations throughout the world have expressed interest in marking the International Day for the Elderly, including by implementing selected activities suggested in the action programme on ageing for 1992 and beyond. The suggestions encompass, for example: (a) meetings, seminars and lectures on ageing; (b) exhibits, videotapes, radio and television programmes highlighting international cooperation on the question of ageing; (c) drawing, photographic, or writing competitions on themes such as grandparenthood, inter-generational family life, senior enterprise and the challenges and triumphs of ageing; (d) conferences on ageing in schools for youth to develop plans of action for life after 60; and (e) leading personalities to assume the role of ambassadors of the ageing. For example, the Japan Well-Aging Association with the support of the Ministry of Health and Welfare has launched a campaign for "invention, ideas and design" for the elderly which, at the time of writing, had elicited over 300 entries. The winning entries are to be announced on 1 October 1991.

27. Throughout the 1990s, the International Day for the Elderly offers an opportunity for examining issues of ageing, including those contained in the draft United Nations Principles for Older Persons. Once adopted, the Principles could be translated into national languages throughout the world, produced in a variety of poster formats, published in magazines and newspapers and used as the theme of radio, television, schools and community talks and discussions. Many organizations, including the International Federation on Ageing, have expressed interest in promoting the worldwide dissemination of the Principles.

28. Notable among the activities planned to mark 1992 is the decision of the General Assembly to commemorate the event in the plenary of its forty-seventh session (see resolution 43/93). The Assembly may decide to devote up to four plenary meetings to an international conference on ageing. A high-level preparatory committee could be established to ensure the maximum global and long-term impact from the event.

29. As lead agency for the anniversary year, the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs launched its promotional activities by publishing in the Bulletin on Ageing (No. 1 1991), a short form of the action programme on ageing for 1992 and beyond. The short form of the action programme is essentially a "do-it-yourself" manual containing suggestions for

celebrating 1992 at the national level and project proposals for collaboration of the formal and informal sectors at the local level. It contains an international calendar of events updated in March 1991. The Bulletin was distributed throughout the world in English, French and Spanish.

30. In follow-up to the fourth ad hoc inter-agency meeting on ageing, the heads of United Nations specialized agencies and bodies concerned with ageing are being invited to issue statements on the international Day, the anniversary year, and their strategies on ageing for the decade 1992 to 2001.

31. The Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs is collaborating with the United Nations Postal Administration to produce in Vienna a United Nations commemorative stamp on ageing. It is exploring with other offices of the Secretariat the possibility of issuing a United Nations medal for the decade 1992 to 2001.

32. The Department of Public Information is planning a range of activities for 1992. At the time of writing, the Department was planning to issue a booklet on the action programme on ageing for 1992 and beyond, feature articles and public service announcements, a short documentary film, and highlights on ageing in the television magazine "UN in Action".

33. A number of posters and calendars are being planned. The Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs is exploring the feasibility of producing in Vienna a calendar for 1992 with photographs of the elderly in all world regions. It is cooperating with the Department of Public Information in efforts to launch a global poster competiton in which United Nations information centres would play a major role. The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements plans to produce a poster. The Statistical Office of the United Nations plans to produce a statistical wall chart. The International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women is preparing an information kit and video on elderly women. As well, the International Labour Organisation and the International Social Security Association intend to devote special issues of their newsletters or journals to the question of ageing as it relates to labour and social security issues.

34. As the anniversary Year approaches, Member States, specialized agencies and bodies and major non-governmental organizations make interesting proposals for the Year and the decade. An Olympics for the elderly has been suggested by a Member State, an international and a national non-governmental organization. The International Federation of Organizations of the Elderly has established "1992 Committees" from among its 100 million members, and launched a survey of the needs, concerns and aspirations of the elderly to be completed in 1992. The International Council of Nurses is preparing an information kit on "Health in Ageing" for 1992 for circulation among national member associations in 106 countries encompassing over a million nurses, most of whom are in developing countries. The European Community plans a series of activities which would simultaneously mark the tenth anniversary as well as its own preparations for 1993, the European Year of the Elderly and Solidarity between the Generations.

V. DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

35. New and continuing initiatives in development cooperation at the present time encompass resource mobilization, institution strengthening, research, training, publications, and technical cooperation.

36. In the context of new approaches to international fund-raising in the field, an initiative of the Secretariat and a group of eminent persons came to fruition with the establishment of The Banyan Fund Association: A World Fund for Ageing, in May 1991. The main goal of the Banyan Fund is to promote activities which would enable the elderly to remain independent and contribute to society in the context of the International Plan of Action on Ageing. To that effect, the Banyan Fund will serve to secure or broker funds from corporations, foundations, charitable bodies and individuals, and allocate them for specific projects and programmes on ageing, especially in the developing countries.

37. The Banyan Fund is located in France and incorporated as a private non-profit association under French law. Its statutes provide for its conversion into a foundation when it is able to accumulate the equity capital required by French law. It will then be known as The Banyan Foundation.

38. Though autonomous and private, the Banyan Fund is under the patronage of the United Nations, in accordance with the mandates in General Assembly resolution 44/67 and 45/106. The relationship between the Banyan Fund and the United Nations is governed by the special Relationship Agreement which was signed by the President of the Banyan Fund Board and the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna on 3 May 1991. The working relationship between the Fund and the United Nations Office at Vienna is supervised by a Joint Coordinating Committee of eight members: four from the Banyan Fund Board, and four from the United Nations, including the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna who chairs the Committee.

39. In response to the Assembly's requests (resolutions 45/106, 44/67, 43/93) to support the establishment of an African Society of Gerontology, the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs will invite experts from the newly established Society to participate in the development of the global strategy on ageing for the years 1992 to 2001, and will elaborate a programme of cooperation with the Society as a means of strengthening and integrating it into global activities in the decade 1992 to 2001.

40. Efforts are under way to establish a technical cooperation network in response to the General Assembly's request, in paragraph 10 of its resolution 44/67, to the major international non-governmental organizations and donor countries to join the United Nations system in establishing a technical cooperation network that would design and support the implementation of series of straightforward self-help projects by the elderly in order to bridge the gap between major funding entities and local self-help initiatives, as well as the gap between globally espoused standards and the real living conditions of the elderly. The nucleus of the network would be established

during an interregional training seminar now under consideration, subject to availability of resources. The seminar would train representatives of Government-appointed national mechanisms on ageing and non-governmental organizations in developing and least developed countries in project formulation, implementation, evaluation and funding.

41. The proposed technical cooperation network could, as well, include retired volunteer experts. A service of senior experts, modelled on the United Nations Volunteers, if established, could become an integral part of the technical cooperation network. Draft resolution VI of the Commission for Social Development, submitted to the Assembly for adoption, "Invites the United Nations to examine the feasibility of launching a service composed of experts who are seniors, modelled on the United Nations Volunteers" (E/1991/26-E/CN.5/1991/9).

42. An applied research and training project entitled "Developmental Implications of Demographic Change: Global Population Ageing", which the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs is implementing, could further support the emergence of a technical cooperation network. The main funding for this research project comes from the United Nations Population Fund, with co-financing from the United Nations Department of Technical Cooperation for Development and the United Nations Trust Fund for Ageing as well as from two non-governmental organizations, HelpAge International and the St. Clares Riverside Medical Center, New Jersey. The aim of the project is to identify the specific developmental implications of population ageing, assess the contributions of the elderly to development, and suggest policy options to enhance these contributions. This is being accomplished through a research programme over two years which synthesizes disparate secondary data and collects primary data in eight developing countries. The first phase of the project, covering four countries in the Latin American, Caribbean and Asian and Pacific regions - Chile, the Dominican Republic, Sri Lanka and Thailand - is now under way. Research protocols have been designed, a common survey instrument allowing for cross-national comparison developed, and national research teams assembled and trained. Based upon random, nationally representative samples, surveys are currently proceeding in the four host countries. The second phase of the project will use the common survey instrument for four further country studies in Africa and Western Asia. When completed, the project will provide an empirical basis for policy development in developing countries that are confronted with the ageing of their populations.

43. Other current research on ageing by the United Nations system is focused on (a) ageing policies and programmes being conducted by the United Nations regional commissions; (b) determinants of healthy ageing, epidemiology, immunology, nutrition, osteoporosis, and age-related dementias being conducted by the Research Programme on Ageing, World Health Organization (WHO); (c) small area planning, by WHO's Regional Office for Europe; (d) population ageing, old age security and social and economic policies, by ILO; (e) the elderly as agents in socio-economic programmes, by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in cooperation with

the European Inter-university Institute for Social Action; (f) curriculum development and student participation at Third Age Universities, by UNESCO in cooperation with the French Union of Third Age Universities; (g) preparation for retirement, by UNESCO in cooperation with the French National Foundation of Gerontology.

44. A demographic statistics database system is being developed to increase the availability and effective use of demographic and social statistics including on ageing by the Statistical Office of the United Nations. Advisory services to developing countries in collecting, organizing, analysing and using basic information vital to national social and economic development including with regard to population ageing is provided by the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development, in cooperation with the Statistical Office. A computerized information system is being set up to provide access to a database on pension legislation and similar social security enactments concerning the aged by ILO. Statistics and indicators for measuring various aspects of age structure will be reviewed at the fifth inter-agency meeting on ageing proposed for 1993.

45. Global training initiatives on ageing are being spearheaded by the International Institute on Ageing in Malta, in cooperation with specialized agencies and bodies of the United Nations system and a global network of gerontological institutes. The Director-General of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs chairs the Governing Board of the Institute. The Institute's wide range of current activities are aimed at fulfilling the training needs of developing countries in the field of ageing and include: curriculum development, course and in situ training, research, advisory services and publication of training materials. The Institute offers a postgraduate one-year diploma course in gerontology; short-term training courses in geriatrics and gerontology; training for physiotherapists, and training in income generation for the elderly in developing countries. The Institute will publish in 1991, and update in 1992, a global survey on training needs in service delivery systems to the elderly in developing countries. It is developing an advisory service on training in which context the first project will train senior researchers in Beijing in data collection, analysis and interpretation, report writing and policy formulation. It is conducting, in 1991-1992, research on population ageing in developing countries in collaboration with the Center on Ageing, San Diego State University. It is producing 16 country monographs on population ageing in Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada (Quebec Province), China, Finland, France, Guatemala, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Mexico, Poland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

46. Four important publications on ageing to be issued by the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs in 1991 and 1992, focusing special attention on the needs of planners and practitioners in developing countries, include The World Ageing Situation (second edition); Ageing: Programme recommendations at the national level for the year 2001; Technical Guidelines on the Participation of the Elderly in Development; and Guide to reaching selected targets on ageing by the year 2001. A fifth publication, the

Profiles of National Coordinating Mechanisms on Ageing will contain information on Government-appointed national focal points on ageing in 93 countries.

47. The Statistical Office of the United Nations plans to publish in 1993 the 1991 Demographic Yearbook with a special supplement on ageing. The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements is preparing "Guidelines for improving the housing and living conditions of the elderly and the disabled in human settlements management and development". The International Institute on Ageing in Malta intends to publish training manuals. Two publications on elderly women are under preparation: a handbook of model programmes around the world serving mid-life and older women by the International Federation on Ageing and the American Association of Retired Persons in cooperation with the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, and a manual on improving concepts and methods for statistics and indicators on the situation of elderly women by the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women. Reports, studies and articles on ageing are being prepared throughout the United Nations system for publication in the years 1991 and 1992.

48. In response to requests from the Governments of the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guinea, Indonesia and Togo, the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development, in cooperation with the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, provided advisory services on ageing policies and programmes during 1990 and 1991 in those countries.

49. The United Nations Trust Fund for Ageing supported eight projects in 1989 and 1990 including two at the national level funded by earmarked contributions from Germany: a pilot project on integrated services to the rural elderly in cooperation with the Government of India; and assistance to the aged in cooperation with the Anglican Church of Uganda. Three training courses were supported, in cooperation with the International Institute on Ageing in Malta, encompassing social gerontology, geriatrics and income security for the elderly in developing countries. Two meetings were supported: a Seminar on Ageing and Development in cooperation with the Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the Government of Malaysia; and, the International Conference on Population Ageing in the Context of the Family in cooperation with the Population Division of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs and the Government of Japan. A research project on development implications of demographic change was supported in cooperation with the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs. Since it became operational in 1983, the Fund has disbursed over $1 million in seed-money grants to 42 projects. Table 1 shows the distribution of grants from the Trust Fund by region since January 1983, and table 2 by subject area.

UNITED NATIONS TRUST FUND FOR AGEING
1989-1990

Table 1. Distribution of grants by region

Region	United Nations Trust Fund for Ageing 1989-1990			
	Number of projects supported		Value of grants (United States dollars)	
	1983-1988	1989-1990	1983-1988	1989-1990
Africa (RAF)	9	1	211 636	23 400
Asian and the Pacific (RAS)	3	1	37 800	43 300
Latin America and the Caribbean (RLA)	10	-	416 500	-
Western Asia (RWA)	2	-	23 000	-
Interregional/Global (INT/GLO)	10	6	196 680	76 000
TOTAL	34	8	885 616	142 700

Table 2. Distribution of grants by subject areas

Area	United Nations Trust Fund for Ageing 1989-1990			
	Number of projects supported		Value of grants (United States dollars)	
	1983-1988	1989-1990	1983-1988	1989-1990
Training	8	4	234 800	44 000
Data collection and research	8	1	283 900	20 000
Exchange of technical expertise	11	1	256 616	12 000
Support to organizations of or for elderly	5	2	101 200	66 700
Cooperation on ageing policies and programmes	2	-	9 100	-
TOTAL	34	8	885 616	142 700

50. Contributions to the Fund, which reached a peak in connection with the 1982 World Assembly on Ageing, have been levelling off and are inadequate to fulfil the Fund's mandate to assist developing countries in responding to the ageing of their populations. Each year in its resolutions on ageing, the Assembly has urged more generous support for the Fund. Despite such appeals, contributions have remained low. To supplement the Trust Fund as well as the limited Regular Budget funds, the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs has had to resort to innovative ways of tapping human and financial resources. The ever increasing mandates from Member States compound the situation and suggest an urgent need for joint ventures, including with interested Governments, as the only viable course of action over the next few years.

Notes

1/ See Report of the World Assembly on Ageing, Vienna, 20 July to 6 August 1982 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.I.16, chap. VI, sect. A).

ANNEX

Preliminary draft global targets on ageing for the decade 1992 to 2001 based on the International Plan of Action on Ageing

1. A set of global targets on ageing to be reached by the year 2001 should serve to generate wide support for a selected number of activities of a catalytic nature. They would be implemented at the national level in accordance with each country's cultural values, stage of development and state of population ageing.

2. A set of 10 preliminary global targets have been identified to date, and are given below. They span the full range of the International Plan of Action on Ageing. Activities to promote the 18 recommendations emanating from the second review and appraisal of the Plan of Action (E/1989/13) and the 18 draft United Nations Principles for Older Persons could be clustered conveniently under one or more of the 10 targets. Consultations will continue throughout 1991 and in the early part of 1992 on the preliminary global targets, to examine their suitability and identify ways of reaching them. A set of final draft global targets will be submitted to the Assembly at its forty-seventh session for possible endorsement. Upon their endorsement by the Assembly, the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Office at Vienna would promote and coordinate programmes and projects for reaching them.

3. The two most challenging dimensions of target-setting will be first, achieving consensus on a limited number of targets, for, to be manageable, they should not replicate the full scope of the Plan of Action and, secondly, identifying the necessary resources and means of reaching them.

4. Each target should be accompanied by a time-frame for implementation as well as a series of operational steps which would state, for example: (a) purpose; (b) current situation; (c) a lead agency and cooperating agencies; (d) data collection and research needs; (e) strategies for disseminating information and for education; (f) specific training courses; (g) essential institutional infrastructure (and obstructing institutional barriers); (h) funding needs, and possible fund-raising initiatives; (i) a list of related innovative model programmes and projects from all world regions (from a compendium to be published separately).

5. The preliminary draft global targets are as follows:

(a) Integrate the question of ageing in the relevant major events and meetings of the 1990s to promote a broad understanding of the ageing of populations: its implications for national, community and family life;

(b) Integrate ageing in mainstream development in the 1990s to ensure support for developing countries in adjusting their institutions, policies and programmes to the ageing of their populations;

(c) Develop and promote cooperation across sectors, especially in small areas with particular emphasis on the formal and informal health and social sectors;

(d) Establish a network of regional and subregional training and research centres, based on existing institutes, which would support national training needs and ensure that all training centres and institutions for the caring professions will include a short-term module on gerontology/geriatrics by 1997, and will offer an accredited course in gerontology/geriatrics by 2001;

(e) Establish a global corps of senior volunteers for development, based on existing groups and organizations;

(f) Develop and promote appropriate standards, design and technologies for institutional and independent living by the elderly;

(g) Review existing social security systems and determine feasible options for countries in development and transition;

(h) Develop and promote programmes to support family and social networks and to maintain integration of the elderly in their communities;

(i) Develop and promote educational programmes in preparation for old age encompassing health, social, economic and legislative matters;

(j) Develop and promote opportunities and choices for the elderly in training, generating income, education and community services.

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INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE FAMILY

Progress made in the preparations for the International Year of the Family

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 44/82, proclaimed 1994 as the International Year of the Family. In its resolution 45/133, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to finalize a draft programme for the preparation and observance of the Year and to submit it for consideration by the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-second session in 1991 and by the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session. In the same resolution, the Assembly further requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to it at its forty-sixth session on the progress made in the preparations for the Year, and to include therein recommendations and comments made by the preparatory and coordinating bodies for the Year, i.e., the Commission for Social Development and the Economic and Social Council. The present report was prepared in response to that request.

II. CONCLUSIONS

2. In the past year, much support for the Year has been demonstrated. Several Governments have made strong statements endorsing an active preparatory process, based on the conceptual framework of the draft programme of the Year.

3. Setting up and activating organizational structures, identifying priority issues and initiating a concerted promotional and information campaign are among the goals set for the preliminary phase of preparations in 1991 for the Year. These have been begun at all levels.

4. At the national level, several countries have initiated the preparatory process, including the establishment of national coordination committees or similar mechanisms on the Year at the highest political level. Promotional and information campaigns have also been started in several countries.

5. At the regional and international levels, measures have been taken to encourage participation, set up arrangements for collaboration and coordination, encourage promotional and information activities and focus attention on specific issues. Various bodies and agencies of the United Nations, including the regional commissions, have begun preparations for the Year. The secretariat of the International Year of the Family in the United Nations Office at Vienna has promoted the participation of various entities in the process, prepared and distributed promotional and information material and sought to mobilize resources. Several intergovernmental organizations and a large number of international non-governmental organizations are actively involved. Research institutions are also being encouraged to pay greater attention to family issues.

6. Intensified efforts are required, however, at all levels for a successful preparation and observance of the Year. At the national level, the importance cannot be over-emphasized of establishing, by early 1992 or as soon as

possible, national coordination committees or similar mechanisms on the Year by all Governments, or entrusting responsibility for preparations for the Year to already existing bodies. Their level should be sufficiently high to have adequate political influence and public visibility. They should also have adequate financial and technical staff resources. Governmental action to involve all sectors of society and to elaborate specific programmes for the preparation of the Year, particularly at the local level, is essential. A nationwide promotional and information campaign, with the active involvement of the mass media, should be an important element of these efforts.

7. The regional commissions of the United Nations should be given more support to play an active role in preparations for the Year through the inclusion in their work programme of policy-oriented research analysis, expert group meetings on family issues of specific relevance to the region, technical assistance programmes, development of inter-agency mechanisms at the regional level and the intensification of collaboration with regional governmental and non-governmental organizations. They should be provided with extrabudgetary resources to carry out activities related to the Year.

8. Several intergovernmental organizations within and outside the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations, which have strong substantive interest in family issues and enormous potential to contribute to the Year, as well as the private sector, need to intensify their efforts. They may further review the impact of their activities on families, develop specific programmes and allocate resources to support local and national efforts. Special attention should be given to technical cooperation activities to assist Member States, particularly developing countries, in addressing family issues. Regional and country offices should provide assistance to national and local activities.

9. Non-governmental organizations need to be further encouraged to develop family-related activities and participate actively in preparations for the Year, so as to bring to bear their extensive knowledge, experience and grass-roots links. Special efforts should be made fully to involve non-governmental organizations in the preparatory process at all levels, including programme planning, implementation and evaluation, especially in the work of national coordinating committees and the United Nations system. Substantive and technical support should be provided for their work.

10. Promotional and information campaign will be intensified, under the auspices of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat of the United Nations and with the active participation of the mass media. Special attention would be given to reaching out to the general public as well as the grass-roots and community organizations.

11. It is recalled that the resources requested for activities for the Year in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 are minimal. Generous contributions to the Voluntary Fund for the Year are crucial, particularly to support local and national level activities in developing countries and technical assistance programmes. Donor Governments and agencies

as well as private enterprises should be encouraged to contribute to the Fund. A concerted fund-raising campaign will be carried out by the secretariat of the Year. Concerned organizations also need to be encouraged to allocate resources for the Year.

12. The General Assembly will have before it draft resolution III of the Commission for Social Development, subsequently adopted by the Economic and Social Council as resolution 1991/14. In considering it, the Assembly may also wish to bear in mind the conclusions of the present report.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS AND COMMENTS MADE BY THE PREPARATORY AND COORDINATING BODIES

13. Having considered the draft programme, the Commission, at its thirty-second session, recommended to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, the adoption of draft resolution III. In that resolution, the Assembly would approve for implementation the proposals of the Secretary-General contained in his report. It would reaffirm its invitation to all States to take prompt action to establish national mechanisms for the Year and invite all Governments and concerned organizations to exert all possible efforts in the preparation for and observance of the Year. It would also request the preparatory and coordinating bodies for the Year to keep preparations under their constant review and urge the Secretary-General to provide adequate staff to the Secretariat of the Year and reflect its strengthening in the programme budget for 1992-1993.

14. In suggesting an agenda for its thirty-third session in 1993, the Commission recommended as a priority subject of consideration the social consequences of population growth and changing social conditions with particular emphasis on the family, bearing in mind the various concepts of the family in different political, social and cultural systems.

15. The preparatory body noted with satisfaction that the unanimous proclamation by the General Assembly of 1994 as International Year of the Family had increased the awareness and highlighted the importance of family issues among Governments, specialized agencies, regional commissions and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as interested national organizations and, consequently, had promoted a better knowledge of the economic, social and demographic processes affecting families and their members and had focused attention on the equal rights and responsibilities of all family members.

16. During deliberations of the preparatory body, a number of specific comments were made by representatives of Member States. The family was seen by many as the nucleus and pillar of society, which provided a framework for an integrated and comprehensive approach in social policy and could serve as a counterforce to fragmentation in social policy endeavours. The Year was welcomed by several representatives. It was stated that this reflected the recognition by the international community of the importance of the family unit to social progress and development.

17. Differences in family structures, cultural traditions and the concept of the family in various societies, it was stressed, should be provided for and stereotypes avoided. Issues that called for special attention included the changing role of men and women in the family; the problems of poor, single-parent, female-headed and migrant families; families with many children; education; insufficient income and unemployment; reconciling family and professional responsibilities; and child care. The well-being and growth of both children and adults should be the basis for the Year. Effective implementation of international strategies, conventions and declarations regarding women and children should be important elements in its observances.

18. The debate in the preparatory body called for more vigorous action in establishing national coordinating committees or other similar mechanisms for the Year. It also stressed the importance of concentrating on activities at the grass-roots level and involving non-governmental organizations, as well as grass-roots and service groups, in activities at the national level.

19. More international cooperation in strengthening the family was called for. The role of the United Nations should be mainly to focus on promotional activities, exchange of information, international coordination and facilitating participation of non-governmental organizations, whose involvement at all levels was crucial. International agencies, particularly those whose policies had a direct bearing on the family, should provide support for action at the national level and be fully involved in related activities for the Year.

20. In its resolution 45/133, the General Assembly requested the Commission for Social Development to inform the Commission on the Status of Women on the preparations for the Year. The relevant portion of the report of the Commission for Social Development on its thirty-second session was provided to the latter at its thirty-fifth session.

21. At its first regular session in May 1991, the Economic and Social Council, the coordinating body for the Year, reviewed the recommendations of the preparatory body and approved its draft resolution III for transmission to the General Assembly.

IV. REVIEW OF THE PREPARATORY PROCESS

A. National level

22. In its resolution 45/133, the General Assembly invited Governments to exert all possible efforts to prepare for the Year, including action to establish national mechanisms. In March 1991, the Coordinator for the International Year of the Family addressed a letter to all Governments, providing suggested guidelines for the establishment of national committees and soliciting views. As indicated in communications received from Governments and statements of delegations at the first regular session of the Economic and Social Council in 1991, various measures have been taken at the national level to prepare for the Year.

23. Pending the establishment of national coordination committees, 35 Governments have designated national focal points to liaise with the secretariat of the Year. Furthermore, a number of countries have already elaborated or are in the process of elaborating national programmes for the preparation and observance of the Year. Major elements of these programmes are to raise public awareness and develop policies and programmes which seek to improve the socio-economic conditions of families and enhance the rights of family members. Programmes also envisage technical assistance projects and resource mobilization.

24. The Government of Austria will establish a national committee headed by the Federal Minister for Environment, Youth and Family. The Committee will develop and coordinate programmes for the Year at the federal, provincial, regional and local levels. Specific measures will be taken to achieve maximum participation of grass-root groups and non-governmental organizations. The Government provided financial assistance for a United Nations survey of national policies for families and is considering the possibility of financing a staff member to work with the secretariat of the Year to support its functions relating to the voluntary sector.

25. In Bolivia, the National Committee of Solidarity and Social Development, under the National Direction for Promotion and Social Development, will act as the national committee for the Year. It has planned various activities, including a public awareness-raising campaign, organization of seminars, studies and programmes in the areas of health and nutrition.

26. The Government of Canada plans to play an important role in activities for the Year. As called for by the General Assembly resolution 45/133, it has indicated its willingness to second a staff member to the secretariat of the Year.

27. In China, a consultative meeting was scheduled to be organized by concerned Government departments to lead to the establishment of a national coordinating committee and the development of a programme of activities.

28. In 1990, Colombia established a Council for Youth, Women and the Family, under the Presidency of the Republic. Its mandate is to advise the President on policy measures; supervise and coordinate the elaboration of plans, programmes and projects in the areas of youth, women and the family; and promote nation-wide strategies in these areas. To enhance cooperation with the United Nations in the preparatory measures for the Year, the Director of the Colombian Institute for Family Welfare paid a visit to the Coordinator. Recently, a national committee for the Year has been established. It is chaired by the First Lady and includes prominent personalities and representatives of non-governmental organizations. The Government of Colombia has also taken a lead role to convene an inter-American congress on the family, in 1992, to discuss regional family issues, promote and harmonize activities related to the Year at the regional level.

29. The Government of Cyprus has appointed a Ministerial Committee, which under the chairmanship of the Minister for Labour and Social Insurance, is responsible for the establishment of a national committee for the Year. At its first meeting in May 1991, it considered a framework of activities for the Year and prepared a list of organizations to be represented in the national committee. The committee will carry out a wide spectrum of activities and will function under the chairmanship of the Permanent Secretary of the Minister for Labour and Social Insurance.

30. In the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, assisting the family has been identified as an urgent need, particularly in the current period of transition to market economy. A first concern in the context of preparations for the Year has been the clarification of the approach to family policy under changed economic circumstances. New family allowance schemes, child care services, implementation of the rights of the child and the problems of all types of families would be among the most important issues to be addressed. The establishment of a national committee comprising representatives of public and private sectors, churches and non-governmental organizations is under way.

31. In Finland, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health convened a meeting in May 1991 to consider preparations for the Year. It was agreed among the concerned authorities that a national coordinating group for the Year should be established. Also, a working group on family policy has recently completed its work. The Government is also considering seconding a staff member to the secretariat of the Year.

32. The Government of Germany plans to establish a national coordinating committee for the Year focusing on providing family-oriented housing, harmonizing family life and employment, and on the social environment of families. The Government has also pledged a generous contribution to finance a preparatory meeting on the topic selected by the Commission for Social Development for its priority and in-depth discussion.

33. In Greece, a coordinating committee has been set up by the Council of Ministers. Two executive committees are also envisaged. Activities planned by the coordinating committee include data collection, establishment of a data bank on family issues as well as an information campaign. A national congress is scheduled to exchange views and proposals on family issues.

34. In Jamaica, preparations are advanced to establish a national committee for the Year. Under the National Five-Year Development Plan, its activities would relate to agriculture, day care, health and community development and would focus on the situation of children, youth, disabled persons and the elderly.

35. Luxembourg has founded its national coordinating committee for the Year under the honorary presidency of Her Highness the Grand Duchess and chaired by the Minister for the Family and Solidarity. It comprises 40 personalities selected from various fields of social work and related areas. Its programme of activities includes sensitizing the public on family values, organizing

conferences and seminars for in-depth discussion on relevant issues, promoting a pedagogy of family life among children and youth through publication of booklets, organizing entertainment events and stimulating innovative approaches and measures by policy-makers to strengthen the family through the creation of a healthy family environment. Planned for 1994 are a family day and a family tourism week. The official emblem of the Year will be widely used. A special body, called "L'Association luxembourgeoise pour l'organisation de l'année internationale de la famille", has been established to mobilize funds for activities for the Year.

36. The Government of Madagascar is taking steps to establish Committees for the Survival and Development of the Family, which will coordinate nation-wide activities for the Year. Malaysia plans to establish a special committee for the Year, in addition to involving its National Population and Family Development Board. In Mauritius, a national coordinating committee was planned to be established in August 1991. The Government has initiated preparations for the Year and public awareness activities at local levels are under way. Morocco has set up a national coordinating committee. Its programme of activities will deal with such issues as economic development, education, culture, legislation, health, environment and migration. A charter of the family has been elaborated.

37. In Peru, preparatory work is being carried out to elaborate a national programme of activities. In the Philippines, the establishment of a national committee was scheduled for June 1991. Poland has advanced work on establishing a national committee under high-level chairmanship.

38. The Government of Portugal was the first to notify officially of the establishment of a national coordinating committee on the Year created by a parliamentary law. Headed by the Prime Minister, it includes the Minister for Employment and Social Security and selected personalities from governmental and private institutions dealing with the family and/or other social issues. Its functions will include promoting a heightened awareness of family problems, strengthening the capacity of national institutions to formulate and implement family policies, preparing a report on the current situation of the Portugese family, publishing a book on the problems of families in Portugal and creating a commemorative medal for the Year. The Council of Ministers of Portugal has also established an Executive Council, under the chairmanship of the Director-General for Family Affairs, to carry out the National Committee's decisions.

39. The Government of Spain is to establish a national committee. The Sudan has established a national coordinating mechanism. Thailand has created a national coordinating committee and has declared 14 April as Family Day.

40. In Turkey, the Turkish Family Research Institute, acting as the national coordinating committee for the Year, has initiated various activities. The first family week was celebrated in May 1991. A number of research activities will be carried out. Planned for 1994 are monthly conferences, a family council with the participation of experts from other countries and a family films week.

41. The Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic is preparing to set up a national committee to coordinate action at the local level and to strengthen local institutions dealing with the family. In the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Government will consider plans for the Year nearer its observances. The Government of Zaire has decided to establish a national committee for the Year.

42. The Holy See has informed Catholic church organizations and bodies about the Year and plans various activities. Its news bulletins include regular features on the Year. In Switzerland, the "Centrale pour les questions familiales" was created in August 1990 and is responsible for the establishment of a national committee to deal with issues relating to the Year.

B. Regional and international levels

1. Initiative of the First Lady of Costa Rica

43. The First Lady of Costa Rica, Madame Gloria de Calderon-Fournier, has launched a campaign among the First Ladies of the world to support the International Year of the Family. This initiative will be organized with the theme "First Ladies for the Family" and will commence with a special meeting of interested First Ladies, to be held at San José in 1992. An important focus will be to highlight and promote the role of women in the context of the Year. An international campaign by prominent persons, many of whom are directly involved in the social policy area, will provide moral and political support to the Year and impetus for its preparation.

2. Intergovernmental organizations

44. Many intergovernmental organizations have carried out an examination of their mandates and objectives in relation to the year. Though many of them do not treat families separately, they none the less recognize the impact of their activities on families. For others, families constitute an important focus of attention. Many organizations in both categories are planning to participate in the Year. Several of them have appointed focal points on the Year. Measures planned or being implemented include dissemination of information, organization of meetings and research.

45. The Council of Europe has expressed strong support for the Year, within a broad and flexible concept of the family. It has made progress in standardizing family policies and arriving at mutually agreed principles for action. Preparations for the Year have been considered by the Council's forums, such as the Steering Committee on Social Policy and the preparatory meeting for the twenty-second session of the Conference of European Ministers responsible for Family Affairs. The Conference itself, in October 1991, is expected to develop a comprehensive outline of activities. In May 1991, the Commission of the European Communities organized a Conference on "Child, family and society", which also focused attention on "family-support policy at

the European level: preparation and execution of a post-1992 policy". Preparations for the Year will also be considered by the Social Policy Committee of the Nordic Council of Ministers.

46. The Organization of African Unity plans a promotional seminar on the Year at the regional level. The African Development Bank has selected "food resources: production, distribution, availability and preparation and family income" as its theme for the Year.

47. The Asian Development Bank will contribute to the Year by supporting family-related activities, especially in such areas as poverty alleviation, the role of women in development and social infrastructure development. The Bureau of the Colombo Plan for Cooperative Economic and Social Development in Asia and the Pacific will develop preparatory activities in the context of its future programmes.

48. The Organization of American States (OAS) appointed the Director-General of its Inter-American Children's Institute as the focal point for the Year. The Institute proposed that the General Assembly of OAS, at its session in 1991, adopt a resolution in support of the Year. The Institute will disseminate information on the Year and family issues, making particular use of its data base on children and the family. It also plans to launch a bibliographical journal on the family and conduct a research project on family structures in Latin America.

49. The Caribbean Community will respond to the Year on the basis of views to be provided by its ministerial body, at its next meeting, for which the Year is a specific agenda item.

3. Non-governmental organizations

50. Non-governmental organizations have responded positively to the General Assembly's invitation to participate in activities of the Year. Many of them are among the major actors in the preparatory process, just as they were a major force for its proclamation. They include not only organizations with a broad social development or a family-specific focus, but also several others which focus on sectoral or group-specific issues.

51. Many non-governmental organizations are disseminating information on the Year to their grass-roots groups and community organizations to activate them for the Year, including participation in the national coordinating committees. Existing means of communication, such as bulletins and newsletters, are effectively used. The emblem of the Year is extensively used. International non-governmental organizations also assist, directly or through national affiliates, in governmental efforts to set up national coordinating committees.

52. The non-governmental organizations Committees on the Family in New York and Vienna and the non-governmental organizations Group on the Family of the

non-governmental organizations (UNESCO) Standing Committee in Paris have made significant contributions to the preparatory process. The Vienna Committee prepared and distributed widely a check-list of activities for the Year; a paper on national coordinating bodies for the Year; a discussion paper on a charter of family rights; and an information kit on the Year. Its newsletter "Families International" serves as a further means to disseminate information. It organized three international meetings on the family; a fourth meeting, on family and environment, is planned for 1992. The New York Committee held three consultations on family issues. The third was on "Fathers in contemporary family life". The Paris Group will organize a colloquium on the role of the family in education and culture in February 1992.

53. The Youth and Family Life Education Network at Geneva, the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council and the non-governmental organizations Committee to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) are planning to participate actively in activities for the Year. The Executive Committee of Non-Governmental Organizations Associated with the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat of the United Nations made a financial contribution to the Voluntary Fund for the Year.

54. In order to promote awareness of the principles and objectives of the Year, many non-governmental organizations held special sessions on the Year during their regular organizational or other meetings; several others plan to do so during forthcoming events. Some others have selected topics related to the Year or to the family as major themes of events to be organized. Publications are also planned. The International Catholic Child Bureau has developed a programme for the Year. The International Council on Social Welfare will integrate family themes in its forthcoming regional meetings. "Focusing on Households and Families: Change and Exchange" is the theme for the next World Congress of the International Federation of Home Economics in 1992. It is also preparing a study entitled "Families in Transition". The European Union of Women will hold a workshop on family questions during its General Assembly in 1992. SOS-Kinderdorf International plans a symposium on the Year in 1993 and several publications to mark the Year. Rehabilitation International is planning to have the Year as a major theme for its Sixth European Regional Conference in 1994. The World Assembly of Youth has selected "Adolescents preparing for family" as its theme for the Year and plans a publication on "Youth preparing for family".

55. Meetings or seminars on family issues are planned to assist in the identification of priorities and strategies to deal with them as well as to promote awareness. For example, the International Union of Family Organizations will hold annual world conferences from 1991 to 1995 on the social, economic, cultural and political rights of families. Fundación Prodefa (international secretariat) will hold a meeting in September 1991, which is fourth in a series on the family. The International Council of Women will hold an international conference on "Changing families, changing men and women, changing societies" in February 1992.

56. Some non-governmental organizations are integrating a family focus in training programmes. Family components have been incorporated into training programmes by the International Planned Parenthood Federation, the Disabled Peoples' International and the International Federation of Social Workers. The International Association of Schools of Social Work organized a workshop on "developing post-graduate social work curriculum on the family" and is planning a series of train-the-trainer workshops which would focus on new curricula contents on the family.

57. Some organizations have developed policy and position papers on the family to guide participation in the Year. For example, the International Federation of Home Economics has adopted a policy statement and a programme plan on the Year. The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions has adopted a policy document on the Year to serve as guidelines for affiliates and will carry out a concerted campaign for the ratification and implementation of ILO Convention 156 on workers with family responsibilities. The 1991 Catholic Charities USA Congress considered a policy statement on the family. The Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union adopted a resolution recalling the proclamation of the Year and focusing on domestic violence.

58. Some non-governmental organizations have initiated special organizational structures to enhance preparation and observance of the Year while others draw on existing ones. The International Union of Family Organizations has set up a steering committee to guide preparations for the Year. The Salvation Army has set up an advisory group and appointed a focal point on the Year. The European Union of Women, the International Federation of Home Economics, Pax Romana and the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations utilize working groups or commissions on the family. A planning committee has been set up by several non-governmental organizations related to the Roman Catholic Church to develop a common response to the Year.

4. United Nations system

59. Several organizations and agencies of the United Nations system are preparing activities for the Year. Many have identified and are carrying out specific activities to support its preparation and observance. A significant step has been the designation of focal points for the Year by 23 organizations, bodies and agencies of the United Nations system, including the Secretariat to promote and coordinate activities for the Year and liaise with the secretariat of the Year. Collaboration has been successful, particularly in terms of exchanging information, awareness-raising, elaborating a programme of activities and coordinating efforts.

60. The Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat plans to produce an information kit on the family; a film on the family and ageing, that also commemmorates the tenth anniversary of the International Plan of Action on Ageing (General Assembly resolution 37/51); and to sensitize non-governmental organizations at the field level, particularly in developing countries, on issues involving the family in economic development, social

development and human rights. It also plans a visual information project to co-produce two documentary films on women as one-parent family and women as heads of families. The preparatory process in the Department also includes a series of meetings with non-governmental organizations.

61. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific is implementing a regional social development strategy towards the year 2000 and beyond that incorporates family issues. At its forty-seventh session in April 1991, the Commission adopted resolution 47/13 on the International Year of the Family, requesting, inter alia, its Executive Secretary to convene in 1993 a regional intergovernmental preparatory meeting of its members and associate members for the observance of the Year and to initiate a series of country studies on the role of the family in development to provide a basis for formulating proposals for regional action.

62. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean has identified two major areas of activities: providing of up-to-date information and analysis of the current situation of the family in the region; and policy-oriented studies and proposals for action by Governments.

63. The Economic Commission for Africa plans to analyse family law and legislation in the African region, with a view to proposing appropriate reforms that would promote the role and place of the family in society. It also intends to convene a regional seminar on the impact of social and economic changes on the African family.

64. The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia intends to focus on: harmonization of the role of women within and outside the family; the needs of the family in terms of shelter; and families in war-torn areas.

65. The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) has three programme areas directly relevant to the family: the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 (General Assembly resolution 43/181) as follow-up to the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, 1987; the celebration of the World Habitat Day, which in 1989 was dedicated to the topic of Shelter, Health and the Family; and the topic of Women and Human Settlements.

66. The main issues of concern to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees have important family dimensions. These include promoting family reunification; supporting unaccompanied children; strengthening the role of the family in dealing with traumatized refugee children; addressing the issue of domestic violence; and supporting refugee female-headed households.

67. The United Nations Children's Fund intends to focus on the family environment of the child and the role of the father in the growth and development of the child. Its major contribution to the Year will be at the field level. The activities connected with the Year would offer an important opportunity to implement the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children (see A/45/625, annex) adopted by the World Summit for Children.

68. Two major areas in which the United Nations Development Programme plans to develop programmes to support the Year are women and the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) epidemic. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has supported activities that both implicitly and explicitly pertain to the family. At the interregional level, it has supported several projects focusing on the family: "Safe motherhood initiative"; economic situation of female-headed households; and a multi-volume publication on families of the world. At the country level, activities assisted by UNFPA include family planning activities, data collection and analysis, and research on socio-economic trends that have implications for families. The Fund plans an expert group meeting on "Family planning programmes, health and family-well-being", one of six major clusters of issues selected by the Preparatory Committee for the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development.

69. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East shifted its focus from providing emergency services to more developmental and family-oriented services. Emphasis is now on the family as a focal point for care. Innovative and promotive health activities have been developed with the family environment of refugees as the principal target.

70. Within its Human and Social Development Programme, the United Nations University is finalizing a publication on household, gender and age. It also focuses research on changes produced by different macro-events on women's fertility rates, economic decision-taking, education and work, and the impact on family structure, formation and development.

71. The International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women emphasizes the changing roles, activities and status of women in the family, as well as on the cultural and community contexts. Its main programmes for 1991 and 1992 focus on the preparation for the Year dealing with statistics, water, energy, credit, technology, communications and environment, among others.

72. The United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute concentrates on responding to the needs of the international community, particularly the developing countries, through five areas of activities: research, technical cooperation, training, library services and publications. Technical assistance and advisory support will be the major activities of the Institute in support of the Year, focusing on youth problems; drug abuse; social development and crime; community-based crime prevention; and migration.

73. In its activities for the Year, the United Nations Development Fund for Women focuses on increasing the understanding of the headship and economic maintenance roles of women in families.

74. In its programme of work, the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNIDCP) recognizes the important role of the family in the various aspects of the fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking. One of its main contributions for the Year will be supporting non-governmental organizations in relevant activities.

75. The activities of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) regarding the family derive from its Convention No. 156 on workers with family responsibilities and the corresponding Recommendation No. 165. ILO undertakes research regarding measures taken to assist workers with family responsibilities in the area of child care. Another area of concern is the situation of home workers, often persons with family responsibilities.

76. To support the Year, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) identified five areas of activities: providing advice to Member States on supporting women as well as supporting diverse forms of families in their policies and programmes; identifying family members as participants and beneficiaries in FAO technical assistance projects; collecting data and statistics and carrying out studies on family types and their relation to production and delivery systems; focusing on food security at the family level; and training in gender issues in relation to programme, project and policy formulation.

77. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) plans several important elements related to the family and the Year. These include: a study on social changes and the family; a population education project on family life education; and a project supporting government policies towards social and educational programmes on the young child and the family environment. It proposes for 1992-1993 a set of activities for the preparation for the Year, such as working groups at the national level and studies on gender roles and inter-generational relations within the family, as well as publications and disseminating of information. An interdisciplinary committee on the family will coordinate its activities for the Year.

78. The main activity of the World Health Organization in relation to family is supporting the role of the family in health by promoting knowledge of health and disease, using appropriate technology, and providing health care infrastructure based on a primary health-care approach. In the preparation for the Year, WHO will re-emphasize the changing role of women in family planning, safe motherhood, and child survival and development. The World Health Organization will consider national policies on HIV/AIDS and the impact on families.

79. Family issues are especially important to the United Nations Office at Vienna as the nucleus for social policy and development in the United Nations Secretariat. The Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs is the focal point for the implementation of major global plans and programmes of action in the field of social policy. Attention will be given to the Year in the context of its subject areas. The Social Development Division prepared two working documents on "The family - developmental social welfare and specific social groups" and the "International Year of the Family from the viewpoint of crime prevention and criminal justice". The Division for the Advancement of Women conducted several activities related to the Year. Recently, a seminar on vulnerable women considered the situation of

female-headed households. A Memorandum of Understanding between the United Nations Office at Vienna and the Australian Institute of Family Studies was signed, to facilitate establishing a network of family-oriented research institutes, initiated by the secretariat of the Year.

5. Inter-agency cooperation

80. In order to develop a system-wide coordinated approach and actions, ad hoc inter-agency meetings on the Year have been established. The first was held on 13 and 14 March 1991, attended by representatives of 18 organizations, bodies and agencies. It reviewed their family-related mandates and programmes; examined the role of the United Nations system for the Year and identified ways to strengthen inter-agency co-operation.

81. The meeting concluded that a distinct vision and clarity of purpose was essential for the preparations of the Year and organizations and agencies of the United Nations system should assist in achieving these, especially at the local, national and regional levels. Its recommendations included the preparation of a technical paper on such issues as conceptualization, typologies, structures and functions concerning the family in order to develop a general approach; identification of specific themes for the Year that highlight the family dimension of each agency's mandate; strengthening the role of field and regional offices in promoting local and national action; and devoting special attention to projects relating to refugee families. As also recommended by the meeting, guidelines on the expected input for the Year from the system organizations have been prepared and distributed to the concerned organizations and agencies by the secretariat of the Year. The next ad hoc inter-agency meeting is scheduled for March 1992.

82. Initial joint projects have also been developed. For example, UNESCO, with the assistance of UNFPA, has implemented a project involving five regional seminars on "The Future of the Family". An international symposium on "The Future of the Family in the World" held at Paris in January 1991 reviewed the results of the regional seminars. The United Nations Centre for Human Rights and UNICEF have initiated joint efforts to implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

6. Coordinator of and secretariat for the International Year of the Family

83. Since his appointment in 1990, the Coordinator for the Year has been active to set into motion the preparatory process for the International Year of the Family, in both substantive and organizational terms. With this in view, he has established contacts with the major actors of the event: Member States, international organizations and agencies, the non-governmental organizations and other entities. He discussed the Year with a number of high-level Government officials and policy makers, heads of United Nations organizations and agencies, heads of regional organizations, representatives

of the academic community and non-governmental organizations. He held very encouraging exchanges of views at the headquarters of the World Bank, the Council of Europe, the Commission of European Communities and the Nordic Council of Ministers. His efforts included also fund-raising activities. The Coordinator and staff of the secretariat of the Year attended several international events on the family, where they spoke on the principles, objectives and programme of the Year.

84. The secretariat of the International Year of the Family, functioning under the Coordinator, has focused its limited resources in mobilizing and assisting Member States, concerned bodies and agencies of the United Nations system, other inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations, research institutions and the private sector to initiate preparatory action for the Year. For this purpose, it has engaged in a number of substantive, organizational and promotional activities.

85. The secretariat of the Year proceeded from an assumption that few other subjects dealing with social policy endeavours lend themselves better to a cross-sectoral approach than does the subject of the family, which encompasses a unique convergence and comprehensiveness of social policy issues. The secretariat has sought, therefore, to promote attention in the preparatory process to substantive issues in several social areas and sectors. These include, in particular, developmental social welfare policies and programmes, women's issues, global strategies for the integration of specific social groups, including the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children adopted by the World Summit for Children (see A/45/625, annex) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (General Assembly resolution 44/25, annex), as well as the role of the family in the prevention of AIDS, substance abuse and crime.

86. The substantive dimensions and issues relating to the family and preparations for the Year have been brought to the attention of the secretariats of forthcoming major United Nations events, including the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, 1992, and the International Conference on Population and Development, 1994.

87. To facilitate the efforts of Governments, suggested guidelines on the establishment of national coordination mechanisms for the Year have been prepared and made available to Member States. All relevant documentation and material to launch promotional and information activities have been provided to Governments, concerned bodies and agencies of the United Nations as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, including relevant country and regional offices. The secretariat organized the first ad hoc inter-agency meeting on the Year, in March 1991. It has also been supporting the planning and execution of specific activities, such as substantive meetings on family issues and promotional campaigns.

88. The secretariat has provided substantive and organizational support to the non-governmental organizations Committees on the Family in Vienna and New York. Close working relationship has been established with the non-governmental organizations Group on Family of the Non-Governmental Organizations (UNESCO) Standing Committee in Paris and the Youth and Family Life Education Network in Geneva. An informal consultative meeting of the chairpersons and representatives of these non-governmental organizations platforms was organized by the secretariat, in order to explore ways of effective cooperation and coordination. Similar meetings will continue throughout the preparatory process. These are envisaged as a forum to facilitate coordination of work related to the Year between the United Nations and the non-governmental organizations in an effective and economical manner, by exchanging information, reviewing between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations relationship, suggesting ways and means for its strengthening and identifying possibilities of mutual assistance.

89. Work has been initiated to establish a network of research institutions dealing with family issues. Several dozen centres have been approached and requested to collaborate in setting up a network, in order to stimulate national and local research on family issues; facilitate dissemination of knowledge and information pertaining to family-related research; and promote joint action, with a view to creating a publication programme "IYF Series". As a first step, information on major areas of study and programme of activities of the institutions is being compiled.

90. Initial steps have been taken to set up a database on the Year. For this purpose, WANG Austria has donated material and technical support. To faciliate the work of the secretariat in the area of communications, the Philips Dictations Systems has contributed a Philips Voice Manager.

91. Various elements of a promotional and information campaign have been carried out. An official emblem has been chosen for the Year. The simple design of the emblem, created by Catherine Littasy-Rollier, a Swiss-born artist residing in Vienna, consists of a heart sheltered by a roof, linked by another heart, to symbolize life and love in a home. Its widespread use is being promoted and guidelines on its use have been distributed in all official languages of the United Nations. In addition to the continued dissemination of the first introductory poster on the Year, a second poster has been prepared and distributed. A series of greeting cards and postal stamps to commemmorate the Year is being explored with the UNICEF Greeting Card Operation and the United Nations Postal Administration, respectively. Also planned are souvenir articles on the Year and other promotional items.

92. A booklet on the International Year of the Family, bringing together basic information on the Year, has been published. Its printing and reproduction were financed through a generous contribution of the Austrian Workers' Compensation Board. The first issue of an International Year of the Family Bulletin has been launched, in order to meet the need for fast and timely dissemination of information. Three more issues are planned for 1991. Subject to availability of resources, the secretariat for the Year plans to

publish regularly an inventory of national and international action in preparation and observance of the Year.

V. FINANCIAL RESOURCES

93. In proclaiming the International Year of the Family, the General Assembly did not allocate any specifc resources for its preparation in the 1990-1991 programme budget. To enable the United Nations to carry out its functions of a catalyst, facilitator and coordinator for the Year, modest resources have been included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. Efforts will be made to mobilize extrabudgetary resources. A number of developing countries have identified technical assistance programmes in the field of the family as a priority concern.

94. As recommended by the Secretary-General and pursuant to General Assembly resolution 45/133, the Voluntary Trust Fund for the International Year of the Family has been established. In the same resolution, the Assembly invited all States and interested organizations to contribute to the Fund. The resources of the Fund will be used to support national action and projects, especially in developing countries, that directly promote objectives of the Year; technical assistance and advisory services to requesting Governments regarding the Year; building national capacities for long-term family-oriented policies; and research, data collection, information exchange and experience sharing between countries on family issues.

95. To promote contributions, a number of potential donors have been contacted; others are being identified. Initial contributions have already been made or pledged, including contributions in kind, mentioned earlier. A fund-raising campaign, covering public and private sectors, will be carried out as promotional material becomes available. Generous contributions to the Fund are crucial to ensure adequate preparation and successful observance of the Year, particularly in developing countries which may be hindered in carrying out effective measures by the lack of resources and/or technical expertise.

96. In spite of the Fund's very modest resources, the secretariat of the Year has already committed its funds to a technical cooperation project, to be executed together with the Mouvement International ATD Quart Monde, which will be a study entitled "Families in conditions of extreme poverty".

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Forty-sixth session
Item 95 (a) of the provisional agenda

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE FAMILY

Progress made in the preparations for the International Year of the Family

Report of the Secretary-General

Corrigendum

Paragraph 60

For the existing text substitute

60. The Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat plans to produce, in English, French and Spanish, an information kit on the International Year of the Family, to include perspectives on women and the family, the family and ageing and other social aspects of the family, intended for use by the media, United Nations information centres and non-governmental organizations. It also plans a co-production in Arabic, English, French and Spanish of a 30-minute video documentary exploring how the ageing of the population affects national economies and the structure of the family, intended for distribution to United Nations information centres, television and non-theatrical distributors, as part of the efforts marking the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Vienna International Plan of Action on Ageing in 1992 and part of the programme for the Year in 1994. It also plans to sensitize, through its multi-media products, its audiences at all levels, particularly in developing countries, about issues of the family within the context of economic development, social development and human rights. It is also considering a film co-production of women as heads of households and the one-parent family.

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CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its forty-fifth session, the General Assembly considered the report of the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, held at Havana, Cuba, from 27 August to 7 September 1990. 1/ In its resolution 45/121, deeply concerned about the steady rise of crime in many parts of the world, particularly its dangerous new forms and transnational dimensions, the Assembly recognized the importance to all countries of more effective crime prevention and criminal justice in furthering socio-economic development, political stability and a propitious climate for national growth and world peace. In the same resolution, the Assembly welcomed the instruments and resolutions adopted by the Eighth Congress and invited Governments to be guided by them in the formulation of appropriate legislation and policy directives and to make efforts to implement the principles contained in the relevant instruments and resolutions approved by both the recent and previous congresses, in accordance with their economic, social, legal, cultural and political circumstances. The Secretary-General was requested, inter alia, to use his best endeavours to translate into action the resolutions recommended by the Eighth Congress for adoption by the General Assembly, and to provide adequate follow-up of the other resolutions adopted by the Congress, and to do so in accordance with the priorities indicated by the Congress.

2. The Assembly, at its forty-fifth session, also adopted 13 draft resolutions recommended to it by the Eighth Congress, as well as resolutions 45/122, 45/123 and 45/166 relating to criminal justice education, international cooperation in combating organized crime and human rights in the administration of justice, respectively.

3. Since the forty-fifth session of the Assembly, the Secretary-General has taken certain initial steps to give effect to resolution 45/121. The present report outlines these measures.

II. PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 45/121

A. First regular session of 1991 of ECOSOC

4. In response to Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/27, the Secretary-General submitted to the Council, at its first regular session of 1991, a progress report with special attention to the decisions of the General Assembly. It highlighted the main issues raised during the debate on the report of the Eighth Congress, action taken by the General Assembly and the initial response thereto by the Secretariat.

5. Having considered the report, the Council, in its resolution 1991/15, requested the Secretary-General, inter alia, to pay particular attention to the operational aspects of the resolutions of the Eighth Congress in order to

assist interested countries in promoting human resources development as well as reinforcing their national machinery. It stressed the importance of Assembly resolution 45/108 and requested the Secretary-General to assist in the proper organization of the forthcoming intergovernmental working group and the ministerial summit meeting on the creation of an effective international crime and justice programme.

6. The Council further requested the Secretary-General to use his best endeavours to provide resources, within the existing level of the regular budget, for public information activities related to the preparation and servicing of those two meetings. The Assembly was requested to give priority attention to the conclusions and recommendations of the ministerial summit meeting, with a view to taking appropriate action thereon, leading to the creation of an effective international crime and justice programme. The Council also decided to give priority attention at its regular session of 1992 to crime prevention and criminal justice.

B. Intergovernmental working group and ministerial meeting

7. In its resolution 45/108, the General Assembly decided to establish an intergovernmental working group, which would present proposals for an effective crime prevention and criminal justice programme and suggest how it could most appropriately be implemented. In accordance with that resolution, the President of the Assembly appointed 29 Member States, on the basis of the principle of equitable geographical distribution, to constitute the membership of the working group (A/45/973 and Add.1). The working group will meet in Vienna, from 5 to 9 August 1991.

8. In the same resolution, the Assembly invited Member States, in consultation with the Secretary-General and the Chairman of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control, to convene an early ministerial meeting to consider the report of the intergovernmental working group in order to decide on the future crime prevention and criminal justice programme.

9. The Secretary-General has initiated the organizational and substantive preparations for this important event, to be held in Paris, from 21 to 23 November 1991, at the generous invitation of the Government of France. The recommendations of the ministerial meeting will be brought to the attention of the Assembly, at its forty-sixth session, for appropriate action.

C. Preparations for the twelfth session of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control

10. In its decision 1990/216, the Economic and Social Council approved the provisional agenda and documentation for the twelfth session of the Committee, to take place from 10 to 19 February 1992. It will be preceded on 6 and 7 February by a pre-sessional working group on the implementation of international standards in crime prevention and criminal justice. The

Secretariat is now engaged in preparing for that session. The implications of the resolutions and recommendations of the Eighth Congress for programmes of the United Nations system have been analysed and priority accorded to: (a) specific practical measures to combat international crime and promote the effective implementation of the instruments, standards and norms adopted by the international community; and (b) provision of technical cooperation to Member States.

11. The General Assembly, in its resolution 45/123, requested the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control to consider ways of strengthening international cooperation in combating organized crime and to submit its views, through the Economic and Social Council, to the Assembly at its forty-seventh session. Accordingly, a report to the Committee is being prepared on ways of strengthening international cooperation in combating organized crime and other forms of transnational criminality. A note by the Secretary-General on proposals for a new instrument on international cooperation in criminal matters is also being prepared for the Committee's consideration.

12. Particular importance has been accorded to the implementation of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice. Reports will be submitted to the Committee on the implementation of the Milan Plan of Action 2/ and the conclusions and recommendations of the Seventh Congress; the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners; 3/ the Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary; 4/ the Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (General Assembly resolution 40/33, annex); the Rules for Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty (General Assembly resolution 45/113, annex); the Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (General Assembly resolution 45/112); as well as the relevant conclusions and recommendations of the Eighth Congress.

13. The Eighth Congress, in its resolution 10, 5/ stressed the value of the United Nations Surveys of Crime Trends, Operations of Criminal Justice Systems and Crime Prevention Strategies in stimulating Member States to develop their criminal justice information systems and in providing them with an overview of the interrelationship between various parts of criminal justice systems. It requested the Secretary-General to convene, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, an ad hoc group of experts to advise on the design, development, implementation and analysis of future United Nations global crime and criminal justice statistics surveys. Accordingly, an Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on the United Nations Surveys of Crime Trends was organized in Rome, in cooperation with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, from 3 to 6 June 1991. The Meeting reviewed the design of the Fourth Survey questionnaire and made valuable recommendations with respect to future surveys, for the consideration of the Committee.

D. Strengthening institutional capacity

14. At the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly, temporary resources were approved to fund, in 1991, the following posts in the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs: one P-5, one P-4, three P-3 and two general service posts. However, not all the requests of the Eighth Congress could be implemented with the limited resources available from the regular budget. In many cases, only a beginning could be made and further action will depend on the availability of means to do so. This is linked to the viability of the programme as a whole, which as yet lacks the scope and leverage to meet existing and emerging needs. Accordingly, the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1991/15, called for ways of redressing that imbalance, recommending, inter alia, that the General Assembly in the light of the ongoing programme review, consider requesting the Secretary-General to enter into a commitment for the upgrading of the status of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, as called for in numerous Assembly and Council resolutions, in a way commensurate with its increased responsibilities and requisite professional expertise.

15. The practical emphasis in most of the resolutions adopted by the Congress and the Assembly requires strengthening the operational aspects of the programme, with the involvement and financial support, including extrabudgetary resources, of the United Nations Development Programme, the Department for Technical Cooperation for Development and others.

16. In 1990, the following countries generously contributed to the United Nations Trust Fund for Social Defence: China $US 10,000, France $54,054, Germany $3,022, Italy $2,027,664, Japan $96,964, Nigeria $10,000, Switzerland $27,119 and Yugoslavia $4,000. Most of these earmarked funds were used for activities of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), in Rome. Some Governments made contributions in kind: Germany, Italy and Japan provided the services of one junior professional officer each, and the Soviet Union an expert on a non-reimbursable loan basis during nine months of 1990.

17. In the "Recommendations on international cooperation for crime prevention and criminal justice in the context of development", adopted by the General Assembly in the annex to its resolution 45/107, Governments and United Nations funding agencies were invited to contribute to the United Nations Trust Fund for Social Defence in order to enable the United Nations to implement programmes of technical and scientific cooperation. A Pledging Day was also included in the agenda of the Eighth Congress and the Secretary-General of the Eighth Congress made a special appeal to Governments to consider contributing to the Fund on that occasion, but the results were disappointing. It is hoped that at the annual United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities in November 1991 further financial commitments will be made to permit intensified assistance to countries in need.

18. Over the last years, the United Nations Office at Vienna formulated a number of technical cooperation projects, which require funding for possible implementation in interested countries. A special double issue of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Newsletter was devoted to technical cooperation activities undertaken or planned, for which voluntary contributions are required. In May 1991, the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna appealed to Governments to help finance projects deemed of special interest, strengthening the operational aspects of the crime prevention and criminal justice programme and rendering assistance to interested Governments.

19. For too long the interfaces between dysfunctional development and criminality have not been properly recognized and, consequently, appropriate preventive policies not instituted. This is still often the case both nationally and internationally but, increasingly, their complex relationship is being acknowledged, as is the need for effective preventive strategies, to be included as a critical element of comprehensive development planning. The work of the United Nations has highlighted this aspect, and the United Nations Congresses and expert meetings have drawn global attention to them, calling for remedial steps. Some particularly noxious activities inhibiting development, such as corruption, have been the focus of initiatives taken together with the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development and joint follow-up is planned. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is providing crucial support for some of the regional institutes' activities. UNDP, in its last Human Development Report, 6/ has also developed a "profile of human distress" and "weakening social fabric" lists of 58 countries, which recognizes that crime rates and human freedoms are important indicators of development.

20. It is not merely a matter of the amount but also the kind of technical assistance. The projects formulated for possible financing - even when submitted - have often followed a piecemeal approach which does not do justice to the complexities and interrelationships involved. A cost-benefit perspective requires a more integrated approach, with crime prevention and criminal justice not treated as isolated tasks or a recurrent overhead but, rather as pressing, wide-ranging issues linked to broader development problems and priorities. Inclusion of relevant projects or project elements in country programmes would permit a significant expansion of United Nations development assistance and provide a more propitious context for sustained development. Regionally, crime prevention and criminal justice - so closely linked to drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking control - deserve increased support even under the prevailing regional programme constraints and competing priorities.

III. INITIAL PHASE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE EIGHTH CONGRESS

21. The Eighth Congress provided major impetus for the United Nations effort in crime prevention and criminal justice, outlining new directions for concrete action, with significant programme implications. The Congress recommendations, in conjunction with programme 29 of the medium-term plan for

the period 1992-1997 and the proposed programme budget for 1992-1993 (under section 2), have established basic priorities for the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme in the coming years, to be further defined by the Intergovernmental Working Group and the Ministerial Meeting.

A. Transnational criminality

22. The Eighth Congress stressed the need to strengthen international cooperation and promote concerted action against transnational crime and to assist Member States in improving the effectiveness of their criminal justice systems. Accordingly, special attention has been given to the development of effective methods for countering transnational forms of criminality, such as organized crime, especially drug trafficking, corruption and other economic crimes, terrorism, environmental offences, crimes against the cultural patrimony and computer crimes. The Secretariat is elaborating a draft international code of conduct for public officials and guiding principles for the prevention of crimes against the environment. It is also seeking to promote compliance by Member States with international instruments dealing with transnational crime, such as terrorism and drug trafficking, develop new model bilateral and multilateral agreements and assist countries to harmonize national legislation.

23. The United Nations Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on Strategies to Deal with Transnational Crime was convened at Smolenice Castle, Bratislava, Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, from 27 to 31 May 1991. It was attended by experts representing major regions of the world. New forms of concerted action against different forms of transnational criminality were proposed for consideration by the Intergovernmental Meeting and the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control at its twelfth session.

24. The profound political and economic changes that have recently occurred and are continuing to take place in Central and Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union have led, inter alia, to "emerging market economies", i.e. former centrally planned economies which are moving, at varying rates, towards mixed or market-oriented systems. Due to the unprecedented nature of these transformations, little is known of the legal framework and enforcement procedures best suited to preventing undesirable economic activities and the damage caused by them. The United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute and the Polish research community, including the Institute for the Administration of Justice of the Ministry of Justice of Poland and the Institute of Social Prevention, Resocialization and Social Problems of the University of Warsaw, organized a seminar on that subject, at Popowo, Poland, from 22 to 26 April 1991. Its main objective was to transfer knowledge on policy and research experiences on economic crime and its control by means of criminal sanctions to policy makers, legislation drafters, the research community and criminal justice practitioners in the emerging market economies. The meeting also served to identify areas of interest and need of the participating countries in the follow-up to its deliberations through national seminars and research projects.

25. The establishment of databases and the provision of information to Member States have been initiated by the Secretariat in the areas highlighted in the Congress recommendations, inter alia, on extradition; mutual assistance and transfer of proceedings in criminal matters; transfer of supervision of offenders conditionally sentenced or conditionally released; money laundering; tracing and forfeiture of the proceeds of crime; monitoring of large-scale cash transactions; sentences imposed for drug trafficking; and trafficking in persons and arms.

26. Following up on decisions made by the General Assembly and the Eighth Congress, the Secretariat, in cooperation with the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Soviet Union and the Helsinki Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, affiliated with the United Nations (HEUNI), is preparing an international seminar on organized crime, to be held in Moscow in October 1991 with the participation of experts from some 20 countries.

27. In accordance with the request of the Congress, methods of enhancing international cooperation in criminal matters are being pursued, for example, through the development of a model agreement for the transfer of the enforcement of penal sanctions. A committee of experts is being convened to undertake this task at the International Institute of Higher Studies in Criminal Sciences, in Siracusa, Italy, in December 1991, in cooperation with the United Nations.

28. An international workshop on "Principles and procedures for a new transnational criminal law", held at the Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Criminal Law, Freiburg-im-Breisgau, Germany, from 21 to 24 May 1991, in cooperation with the International Society for the Reform of Criminal Law, considered new modalities of international cooperation designed to combat transnational crime through bilateral arrangements and multilateral conventions. It also examined the possibility of establishing a supra-national jurisdiction for specific crimes and new mechanisms, institutions and enforcement procedures in full observance of human rights.

B. Crime prevention planning and criminal justice management

29. Activities in this field aim at promoting integrated and effective criminal justice management and crime prevention planning with a view to enhancing crime control by: (a) providing guidelines for the formulation of national policies and programmes in those areas; (b) increasing awareness of Governments of crime trends and areas of prime concern; (c) assisting in upgrading national crime data collection capabilities and criminal justice analyses for rational decision-making.

30. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 45/107 on international cooperation for crime prevention and criminal justice in the context of development and resolution 1 on prevention of urban crime 5/ and resolution 14 on social aspects of crime prevention and criminal justice in the context of development, 5/ adopted by the Eighth Congress, work is in progress on

databases on preventive measures related to such types of criminality as burglary, robbery and street crime; public policies designed to combat crime; education, training and public awareness in crime prevention; and criminal justice education. An in-depth assessment of available information and evaluation of the effectiveness of crime prevention measures in various cultural, social, economic and political contexts should help Governments to incorporate crime prevention policies in national development planning and to improve the ways by which criminal victimization can be avoided. In response to the Eighth Congress resolution 1 on prevention of urban crime, support has been extended to the organizers of the Second International Conference on Safety, Drugs and the Prevention of Urban Crime, to be convened at Paris from 18 to 20 November 1991.

31. Special attention is being given to the prevention of juvenile delinquency, including the development of comprehensive countermeasures for juveniles in situations of social risk and of integrated inter-sectoral strategies. Action-oriented research on youth crime continues as a basis for the development of measures to assure the protection of juvenile offenders deprived of their liberty and for dealing with serious young offenders. The application of United Nations standards to improve the administration of juvenile justice is being furthered through a consolidated volume including also commentaries.

32. In conformity with the requests of the Eighth Congress, the question of the treatment of special categories of offenders, including long-term drug addicted and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS)- or human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)-infected prisoners, has been actively pursued. The elaboration of guidelines for the institutional and clinical management of HIV-infected prisoners and those with AIDS is proceeding in cooperation with WHO.

33. In paragraph 14 of the annex to its resolution 45/107, the General Assembly recommended, inter alia, that "the criminal justice system should be developed on the basis of the progressive rationalization and humanization of criminal laws and procedures, sentencing policies and dispositional alternatives, within the overall framework of social justice and societal aspirations". Accordingly, emphasis is being placed on the performance of the criminal justice system as a key agent of crime prevention and control. The Secretariat is assisting Governments to promote coordination between their various criminal justice sub-systems and other agencies in order to develop more coherent national systems, a database for decision-making and appropriate evaluation procedures.

34. The Eighth Congress called for more rational, effective and accountable management of criminal justice systems through the application of technological advances. The Secretariat, in cooperation with the regional and interregional institutes, is furthering the use of computerization in criminal justice and a manual has been prepared in collaboration with the Statistical Office. It is also disseminating relevant United Nations guidelines through publications, reports and newsletters and regional and interregional meetings, seminars and workshops.

C. Application of United Nations standards and norms

35. In accordance with the recommendations of the Eighth Congress, emphasis has been placed on the application of the United Nations instruments and guidelines. 7/ A special effort is being made to develop and monitor cooperative arrangements in criminal justice matters, in accordance with United Nations model treaties on extradition; mutual assistance in criminal matters; transfer of criminal proceedings; transfer of foreign prisoners; transfer of supervision of offenders conditionally sentenced or conditionally released; and prevention of crimes against cultural heritage.

36. An ad hoc group of experts (to be held at Vienna from 14 to 16 October 1991), which was organized by the Home Office of the United Kingdom in cooperation with the Secretariat, will evaluate the implementation of United Nations norms and guidelines in crime prevention and criminal justice and prepare proposals for the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control. Subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, two more expert group meetings are planned on (a) model legislation to foster the use of the United Nations model treaties and (b) ways and means to promote adherence of Member States to United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice.

37. New guidelines in priority areas identified by the Eighth Congress will also be developed as part of the standard-setting process designed to promote the observance of human rights in the administration of justice, including principles for pre-trial detention; assessment for release of life sentence prisoners; protection of the human rights of victims of crime and abuse of power; prison education and transfer of the enforcement of penal sanctions.

38. Mechanisms and operational procedures are also being elaborated for monitoring international and national developments, with a view to curtailing serious victimization. A guide on the prevention of victimization and the protection of victims will be prepared and a database established on comprehensive measures for education on the prevention of victimization, the protection of victims and assistance and compensation to be provided to them.

D. Technical cooperation

39. In its resolution 45/121, the General Assembly emphasized, as did the Congress, the need to strengthen the operational aspects of the United Nations programme of work in crime prevention and criminal justice, with a view to assisting interested countries in developing self-reliant and adequate law enforcement and judicial structures. The Department of Technical Cooperation for Development, the United Nations Development Programme and other organizations were urged to give full support to projects of technical assistance in that field.

40. Requests for advisory services continued to grow steadily, as evidenced by the number of requests received and number of advisory missions

undertaken. Between December 1990 and June 1991, the Interregional Adviser visited Botswana, Panama, Costa Rica, Colombia, Brazil, Uganda and Rwanda. The requests covered the establishment of national councils for crime prevention and criminal justice in the context of development; training of criminal justice personnel; juvenile delinquency prevention; alternatives to imprisonment; urban criminality; improvement of the capacity of law enforcement agencies and the judiciary to fight various forms of organized criminality. Assistance in the development of criminal justice statistics and legal informatics was also part of various requests, and in many instances specific project proposals were formulated for extrabudgetary funding.

41. The implementation of United Nations standards and norms has been the object of training seminars in a number of missions taken by the Interregional Adviser. Public lectures were also given to crime prevention and criminal justice agencies and to universities. Many requests were on legal reform to improve social equity, especially in the context of social and economic adjustment processes.

42. Contacts were maintained with the United Nations institutes for crime prevention and criminal justice through visits and consultations on various aspects of their work programme. Advice was provided to the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia during a field mission and a proposal for juvenile delinquency prevention was prepared jointly with the Economic Commission for Latin America. Missions were undertaken by the Interregional Adviser to the United States, Italy, Japan and Spain to seek funding support for projects in developing countries. Visits were also made to the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme to establish closer linkages and explore possibilities of support to help to improve public administration, including crime and corruption prevention, and increase the fairness of criminal justice.

43. The Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch collaborated with the Economic Community of West African States on a draft convention on mutual assistance in criminal matters. The convention is being developed on the basis of the Model Treaty, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/117, on the recommendation of the Eighth Congress.

44. The Eighth Congress invited the United Nations institutes for crime prevention and criminal justice to be actively involved in the implementation of recommendations and decisions of the Congress. Technical cooperation activities have been included both in the programmes of the regional institutes and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute. They have been limited, however, by the lack of funds.

45. Consultations were held on a possible agreement between the Government of Canada and the United Nations for the establishment of a new international centre for the reform of criminal law and criminal justice policy in Vancouver, as an institute affiliated with the United Nations, with a view to furthering the United Nations aims, policies and activities in this area. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1991/15, welcomed that

initiative and invited the Secretary-General to conclude an agreement with the Government, as appropriate.

46. Some projected training initiatives have been included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. Thus, training courses, seminars and workshops have been planned to promote the implementation of the United Nations standards on the independence of the judiciary and the role of lawyers and prosecutors; the role of police and the use of force and firearms by law enforcement officials; juvenile justice; the treatment of prisoners; and protection of, and assistance to, victims. Also envisaged are training courses or workshops on education in crime and victimization prevention; computerization of criminal justice; criminal justice statistics; and non-violent conflict resolution. The training tasks set by the Eighth Congress, however, like others, necessitate an adequate resource base, which is not yet available. In relation to the vast needs, the services rendered, and even those projected, are, but a drop in the ocean.

E. Information sharing and exchange

47. The Secretariat has distributed the report of the Eighth Congress to Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and individual experts who attended the Congress. It has also requested Governments to provide information on the provisions of their legislation for the use of Member States who intend to enact or further develop their own legislation in the field.

48. In Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/63, the Secretary-General was requested to compile all existing United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice. A preliminary version of the Compendium (A/CONF.144/INF.2) prepared for the Eighth Congress, will be issued as a technical publication in 1991. It is hoped that it will contribute to wider knowledge and increased awareness of United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice standards and prove of value to all those interested in crime control and concerned with the observance of human rights in the administration of justice.

49. Through its publications, the International Review of Criminal Policy and the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Newsletter, the United Nations is advancing knowledge, policy and practice. The Organization is also serving as a clearing-house for cross-national data and information on new initiatives and relevant reforms in the crime prevention and criminal justice field.

50. The Secretariat is continuing to strengthen its collaborative efforts with government-appointed national correspondents who now number more than 300 in 130 countries. Assisting in programme implementation and serving as a research resource, they contribute to the preparation of reports and questionnaires and provide relevant information, analyses and evaluations. A special effort has been made to keep national correspondents appraised of new programme developments through periodic communications and meetings. The

first European Seminar for United Nations National Correspondents in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was held at the Helsinki Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, on 15 and 16 December 1990. It brought together national correspondents from 26 countries to discuss ways and means of enhancing the role of the United Nations network of national correspondents and their contribution to the programme.

51. The United Nations Crime and Justice Information Network (UNCJIN) is being systematically expanded, with data banks and gateways established as limited resources permit, in cooperation with interested agencies and institutions. Additional financial support of that endeavour by Governments and other interested parties would help to meet the critical need for information and know-how and to exchange expertise and experience. Improved ways of sharing the available documentation and information was the subject of a meeting organized on 25 and 26 April 1991 by the State University of New Jersey at Rutgers, in cooperation with the United Nations. The meeting recommended the collaborative development of a "world criminological library" in order to use the scarce resources more effectively, identify gaps and facilitate access to crime-related collections and data sets. A follow-up on the subject has been envisaged through a steering committee and joint activities among major criminological libraries.

52. Other means of strengthening information activities are also being explored. Educational and informational materials in the areas identified by the Eighth Congress are being elaborated and disseminated, inter alia, through an UNCJIN crime and justice newsletter; the second edition of the UNCJIN manual; and a manual on criminal justice education. The preparation of training materials; audiovisual aids for education, training and public awareness in crime prevention; training books for juvenile justice practitioners; a guide on education on the prevention of victimization; and a manual on juvenile justice standards, have been included in the proposed programme for the next biennium.

F. Intensified collaboration with the United Nations human rights programme, the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and specialized agencies

53. The Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Office at Vienna continues to maintain close contacts with the Centre for Human Rights in its activities related to human rights in the administration of justice, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 45/166 and Commission on Human Rights resolution 1991/34. Focal points have been created and are being further developed within both Centres to monitor the human rights aspects of the administration of justice in the various United Nations programme elements, as well as the work of specialized agencies, regional organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status, and to promote, as appropriate, collaboration and coordination. Particular attention is being placed on the following areas: independence of the judiciary; role of lawyers; role of prosecutors; law

enforcement, including use of force and firearms by the police; victims of crime and abuse of power; treatment and human rights of prisoners and detainees; capital punishment and extralegal, arbitrary or summary executions. Collaborative arrangements are being strengthened, especially in the follow-up to the Eighth Congress and preparations for the twelfth session of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control in 1992.

54. Staff members of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs have taken part in training courses on the implementation of international instruments on human rights in the administration of justice, organized in 1991 under the Advisory Services Programme of the United Nations Centre for Human Rights (11-15 March in San Remo, Italy, for French-speaking African countries; 17-19 June in Brasilia; and 8-12 July in Cairo). Ways of increasing the effectiveness of such projects were discussed at the third inter-agency meeting on advisory services in the field of human rights, organized by the Centre for Human Rights on 18 April 1991 in Geneva, in which the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs also participated. Further, in collaboration with the Center for Human Rights and UNICRI, a training course on human rights and crime prevention is being organized at the Police Academy in Malta from 9 to 20 December 1991.

55. Collaborative projects have also been carried out with the International Drug Abuse Control Programme. These include the establishment of courts to deal with substance abuse cases in Bolivia, a project for strengthening law enforcement and mutual assistance in criminal matters in the Caribbean, a seminar for South American judges and prosecutors organized in Rome under the sponsorship of the Italian Ministry of Justice, an African workshop held in Zambia on the implementation of existing conventions and an international seminar organized in Vienna, from 1 to 5 July, under the sponsorship of the International Technical Cooperation Service of the Police of the Ministry of Interior of the Finnish Government.

56. Cooperation with United Nations specialized agencies and other entities is being pursued in furthering and monitoring the implementation of relevant United Nations recommendations, such as the United Nations Children's Fund on juvenile justice and the instrumental use of children and with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on victimization. Periodic reports on compliance with existing international conventions on terrorism will be prepared in cooperation with the International Civil Aviation Organization and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

57. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has played an active role in the preparation of the Model treaty for the prevention of crimes that infringe on the cultural heritage of peoples in the form of movable property. 8/ It participated in the formulation of Eighth Congress resolution 6 entitled "Use of automated information exchange to combat crimes against movable cultural property" as has extended its cooperation in the implementation of those resolutions. Also, in collaboration with UNESCO, arrangements are being made with the Canadian

Heritage Information Network, for the establishment of an international information exchange service to combat crimes against movable cultural property.

IV. CONCLUDING REMARKS

58. In spite of the effort made in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 45/121, progress has been uneven because of the many competing demands. The United Nations programme is attempting to implement a great number of activities simultaneously, as mandated by its intergovernmental bodies. But this extensive mandate does not permit, under the existing resource constraints, the necessary in-depth treatment, in spite of sporadic highly professional inputs.

59. The Eighth United Nations Congress adopted a large number of resolutions and recommendations calling for national and international implementation. If they and other United Nations policy directives are to become more than merely pronouncements, they must be translated into action at the various levels. Such action has been initiated but is still fragmentary: the amount of additional work, coupled with ongoing tasks and standing obligations, has prevented the multi-pronged initiatives that are actually called for. While it is as yet too early to assess the progress made to date, it is apparent that it cannot fully meet the needs or, indeed, the expectations.

60. Much more attention should be paid to the operational aspects of the recommendations of the Eighth Congress in order to assist interested countries in promoting human resource development, reinforcing their national machinery, undertaking joint training activities and executing pilot and demonstration projects, as recommended by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1991/15, in which, inter alia, it invited the United Nations Development Programme, the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development and other relevant agencies to consider giving increased support to those endeavours.

61. Otherwise, the considerable efforts being made to render appropriate services to Governments cannot be sustained, let alone increased. This implies that, unless the operational capacity of the crime prevention and criminal justice programme is strengthened sufficiently and its interregional advisory services reinforced, either from the regular budget or extrabudgetary funds provided by Governments or other sources, little advance will be made in promoting the use of modern management techniques and technology by Member States and placing the necessary expertise at their disposal, so as to assist them in implementing existing instruments. Technical cooperation must be intensified through both multisectoral and sectoral projects, giving due consideration to the crime prevention and criminal justice requirements of developing countries. Regional and subregional programmes carried out in cooperation with the United Nations institutes have particular scope for the pooling of knowledge and experience on promising approaches.

62. The United Nations should also have the capacity to serve all Member States as a source of reliable and timely information that would create a base for multilateral cooperation. Further, joint action programmes are necessary to combat the new transnational forms of crime. The need for the creation of a more effective United Nations programme in that field has been stressed repeatedly. At the Eighth Congress Governments with different legal and political traditions stated that they would be prepared to join forces in order to combat transnational crime if an appropriate international framework and concrete possibilities for multilateral action were provided. The intergovernmental working group and the ministerial meeting on the creation of an effective international crime and justice programme offer unique opportunities for setting the course of future United Nations action in that regard. Its success, in the context of global economic and political developments, will depend on the political will of Member States: only their determination and collective effort can make it a reality.

Notes

1/ Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (Havana, 27 August-7 September 1990): report prepared by the Secretariat (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.91.IV.2).

2/ Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (Milan, 26 August-6 September 1985): report prepared by the Secretariat (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.IV.1), chap. I, sect. A.

3/ See Human Rights: A Compilation of International Instruments (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.88.XIV.1), sect. G.

4/ Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (Milan, 26 August-6 September 1985): report prepared by the Secretariat (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.IV.1), chap. I, sect. D.2.

5/ Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (Havana, 27 August-7 September 1990): report prepared by the Secretariat (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.91.IV.2), chap. I, sect. C.

6/ Human Development Report 1991 published for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), New York, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 1991.

7/ Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners; Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials; Safeguards Guaranteeing Protection of the Rights of Those Facing the Death Penalty; Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power; Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary; United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (The Beijing Rules); Principles on the

Notes (continued)

Effective Prevention and Investigation of Extralegal, Arbitrary and Summary Executions; United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (The Tokyo Rules); Basic Principles for the Treatment of Prisoners; United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (The Riyadh Guidelines); United Nations Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty; Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials; Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers; and Guidelines on the Role of Prosecutors.

8/ Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (Havana, 27 August-7 September 1990): report prepared by the Secretariat (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.91.IV.2), chap. I, sect. I, B.1.